Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-108
Tuesday
8 June 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-108 8 June 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Iranian, Turkish, Syrian Ministers Meet in Tehran 1
Turkey's Cetin Arrives *[IRNA]* 1
Syria's al-Shar' Arrives *[Damascus TV]* 1
Velayati Addresses Meeting *[Tehran TV]* 1
Communique Issued *[Tehran TV]* 1
Next Meeting in November *[IRNA]* 1
Iranian President Receives Ministers *[Tehran Radio]* 2
Ministers Hold News Conference *[IRNA]* 2
ECO Aviation Experts Meet in Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Begins Meeting in Riyadh *[Riyadh Radio]* 3
UAE's al-Na'imi Praises Border Decision *[SPA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Participation in Talks Depends on U.S. Replies *[HA'ARETZ 8 Jun]* 3
PLO's 'Abbas Comments on Talks, Hamas *[MENA]* 4
'Uraygat Calls for International Sponsorship of Talks *[PETRA-JNA]* 5
Delegate Views Peace Talks, Hamas Role *[AL-FAJR 7 Jun]* 5
PLO Asked To Withdraw Military Personnel From Tunisia *[AL-MANAR 7 Jun]* 7
'Arafat Discusses Peace Process With UK Official *[Algiers VOP]* 7
Arab League Chief Confers With 'Arafat's Adviser *[MENA]* 8
Al-Rantisi Urges Boycott of Upcoming Round of Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 8
Paper Urges Participation in 10th Round of Talks *[AL-MANAR 7 Jun]* 8
Daily: Negotiating Process Requires 'Credibility' *[AL-QUDS 7 Jun]* 9

OPEC Affairs

IEA Says OPEC Exceeds Output Limit by 620,000 BPD *[AFP]* 9
OPEC Meeting in Geneva Discusses Production Levels *[Bern International]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FIS Leader Rabah Kebir Arrested in Bonn *[Paris International]* 11
Further on Arrests *[Hamburg DPA]* 11
Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Congressman's Message *[Algiers TV]* 11
Malek Meets UK Politician *[Algiers TV]* 11
Constantine Municipality Executive Inaugurated *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Syrian Delegation Arrives for Joint Committee Meeting *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Sidqi, Syrian Prime Minister Comment *[Cairo Radio]* 12
'Arafat Arrives in Cairo on 'Short' Visit *[MENA]* 12
'Arafat on Peace Process *[MENA]* 12
'Arafat Departs for Amman *[MENA]* 13

One Killed, 14 Injured in Blast on Pyramids Road *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Device Linked to Earlier Attacks *[MENA]* 13
'Terrorist' Network Uncovered at Port Said Jail *[AFP]* 13
Military To Try 735; Mubarak Assassination Plot Uncovered *[AL-AHALI 2 Jun]* 14

Libya

OAU Secretary General Blames West for Crisis *[Tripoli TV]* 14
Front: Pilgrimage Exposes Regime's 'Isolation' *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 14

Morocco

Minister Views Upcoming Legislative Elections *[MAP]* 15
Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Delegation *[Rabat Radio]* 15
King Hassan Receives UN Official *[Rabat Radio]* 15

Sudan

Government Bans Imports of Certain Goods *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Private Companies Allowed To Import Oil *[SUNA]* 16
Egyptian Envoy on Need for Direct Contacts *[MENA]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Affirms Death Sentences To Be Carried Out *[KUNA]* 17
Foreign Minister Welcomes Yemeni Initiative on Relations *[Kuwait Radio]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Al-Qadhdafi Example of 'Absolute Capitulation' to Israel *[AL-RIYAD 3 Jun]* 17

United Arab Emirates

PLO's 'Abbas, al-Husayni on Peace Talks, U.S. Visit *[WAKH]* 18
Al-Husayni on Gaza Autonomy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19

Yemen

Parliament Speaker on Relations With Saudi Arabia *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 4 Jun]* 19

IRAQ

Al-Zubaydi Receives Letter From Algerian Prime Minister *[INA]* 21
Paper Warns Against Egyptian Call For Mideast Market *[INA]* 21
Note to UN Protests U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' *[INA]* 21
Protest to Arab League *[INA]* 21
Decree Denies Home Visits to Convicted Thieves *[Baghdad Radio]* 21

ISRAEL

Peres Praises Kuwait for Lifting Boycott *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Says Saudi Arabia Next *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Discusses Talks With Jordan, Syria *[DAVAR 8 Jun]* 23
Rabin on Autonomy, Peace Talks With Syria, Jordan *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
'Secret Contacts' Coordinate Peres-al-Shar' Meeting *[HA'ARETZ 8 Jun]* 25
Egyptian Envoy Optimistic About Bilateral Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Rabin Considers Rapprochement With Austria Possible *[Vienna TV]* 25
Peres Views Relations With Austria, Peace *[Vienna PROFIL 7 Jun]* 26
Rabin, Economists Comment on Aims of Loan Guarantees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

Rabin Praises U.S.; Meretz Wants Settlement Freeze *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Unit To Supervise Settlement Activity Established *[HA'ARETZ 8 Jun]* 27
New Group Seeks To Establish Jewish Autonomy *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jun]* 27
Chief of Staff Baraq on Visit to Thailand, Far East *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Intelligence Branch Head on Far East Weapons Threat *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Air Force Orders System To Analyze Dogfights *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Jun]* 29

JORDAN

'Arafat in Amman for Talks on Middle East Peace Process *[Amman TV]* 30
Received by King, Makes Statement *[Amman TV]* 30
Further on Meeting With King *[Amman Radio]* 30
Al-Hasan Reviews Results of Amman Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 31
Information Minister on Government's Peace Stand *[Amman TV]* 31
King To Discuss Iraq's Partition During U.S. Trip *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 32
Two More Ships Barred From al-'Aqabah Port *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jun]* 32
Al-Majali Denies Agreement on Exports to Territories *[SHIHAN 5-11 Jun]* 33

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Says No Tangible Results Yet From Peace Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 34
Arab Moves Toward Israel, U.S. 'Pressure' Criticized *[SANA]* 34

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Ministry Denies Interference in Tajik Affairs *[Kabul Radio]* 35
• Editor Discusses Nature of 'Afghan Arabs' *[London AL-HAYAH 26 May]* 35

Bangladesh

Ershad, Wife Sentenced on Corruption Charges *[Dhaka Radio]* 36
Army Delegation Leaves for China 5 Jun *[Dhaka Radio]* 36

India

Kashmir Militants Attack Army Motorcade *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Normal Life Disrupted by Strike in West Bengal *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Commerce Minister on Need To Increase Exports *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Company To Supply Bulldozers to Nepal *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Repatriation of Bangladesh Refugees Reportedly Begins *[Delhi Radio]* 37

Iran

Khamene'i Address on Khomeyni Anniversary *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Jasbi Calls for Political Parties, Rule of Law *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Oil Minister Urges Postponing Increased Production *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Central Bank Governor on Foreign Debt Figures *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Cabinet Backs Bill on Nomads, Voluntary Settlement *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Tajik Minister Calls for Expansion of Ties *[IRNA]* 43
Minister Confers With Habibi *[IRNA]* 43

Pakistan

Federal Ministers Demand Removal of President *[THE NEWS 7 Jun]* 44
Parliament Briefed on Soldiers' Deaths in Somalia *[Islamabad TV]* 44
Another Attack on Troops *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Minister on Deterrence of Indian Missile Threat *[Islamabad International]* 45

Iranian, Turkish, Syrian Ministers Meet in Tehran

Turkey's Cetin Arrives

LD0706131493 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in Tehran Monday [7 June] to participate in the fourth Iran-Turkey-Syria trilateral meet to discuss the developments of the region.

Upon his arrival, Cetin who was received by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, told IRNA that Iran, Turkey and Syria as three important countries in the world had the final say and played a decisive role in preserving peace and security in the region.

He underlined the need for peace and tranquility in the region and stated that any delay in restoring peace to the region would harm international peace and tranquility.

Underlining Iraq's integration, Cetin stated that any threat to its territorial integrity would face the world with various problems.

He stressed that the Iraqi regime should comply with all the U.N resolutions because, he said, this would be in the interest of the Iraqi people.

He described the trilateral meeting as very useful in tackling the problems facing the region.

The previous round of the trilateral meeting was held in Damascus last January and its most important message was to preserve security in the region by the regional countries themselves.

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives

JN0706181793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran today to attend the fourth tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey. He was received at the airport by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan and embassy staff.

Al-Shar' and Velayati then went to the Foreign Ministry where the delegations of the three countries started their meeting to exchange views and discuss recent developments in northern Iraq.

Experts held a series of meetings over the past two days to prepare an agenda for this meeting.

Velayati Addresses Meeting

LD0706160193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The fourth tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey, which is being held to review the situation in northern Iraq, started this afternoon with a speech by Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, at the Bureau of Political and International Studies of the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Velayati said at the opening session: The holding of these sessions is beneficial for the region, particularly the people of Iraq. Stressing that Iraq's territorial integrity should be preserved, he said: The continuation of the oppressive policies of the Iraqi Government, especially in the north and south of that country, has been a cause for grave concern to Iraq's neighbors.

At the first session, which is being attended by teams of political experts from the three countries, developments in Iraq and their impact on neighboring countries and also the most important regional issues will be reviewed and discussed.

Communique Issued

LD0706172393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The fourth tripartite meeting of the Iranian, Syrian, and Turkish foreign ministers concluded its work this evening by issuing a nine-point communique, stressing the need for maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq.

The communique refers in part to the point that the future of Iraq must be determined by the Iraqi people's free will and on the basis of the principles of unity, democracy, and peaceful coexistence. It says: The three states of Iran, Syria, and Turkey reject any efforts aimed at dismembering Iraq under whatever excuses.

In another article of the communique, the participating foreign ministers, while condemning any act of terrorism at the regional and international level, condemned terrorist actions [barkhurd ha] against the three states of Iran, Syria, and Turkey. They stressed the need for decisive measures against these actions.

In this joint communique, the three foreign ministers pointed out that such consultations and meetings will not be aimed against any group or state, and stressed the need to hold similiar meetings in the future.

The joint communique expressed concern over the tragedy taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the participants demanded a decisive international response against this situation.

Next Meeting in November

LD0706192293 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey and Iran Monday [7 June] reaffirmed the importance of preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. They also expressed their firm belief that the future of Iraq should be determined by the free and common will of the entire people of Iraq on the basis

of the principles of unity, democracy and good neighbourly relations. A communique issued at the end of the fourth tripartite meeting of the three ministers here also reiterated the need for the three countries to continue to follow closely the developments in northern Iraq. "They reasserted their opposition to any efforts geared towards disintegration of Iraq under any pretext," it said, adding that "disintegration of Iraq would have negative and dangerous repercussions on the peace and security of the region."

Prior to this meeting, the committee of senior experts, which was set up in Damascus, held its first meeting here Sunday. Paying special attention to the situation in northern Iraq, they discussed the impacts of these developments on the neighbouring countries and the region at large. The ministers reiterated in their communique that the consultations of and the conclusions reached by the tripartite meeting "are not directed against any group or country."

They also condemned repression of the people of Iraq in all its forms, including through restrictive economic measures, particularly in the north and south of that country, and called for the adoption of necessary measures to guarantee respect for the fundamental rights of the Iraqi people. They urged once again the Iraqi Government to comply fully with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. Moreover, the communique said, in light of the current misery and suffering of the Iraqi people, the ministers were of the opinion that the measures against the Iraqi regime should not be allowed to take its toll on the people of Iraq. The international community should, therefore, take necessary measures to remedy this tragic situation and extend assistance, on a non- discriminatory basis, to all parts of Iraq.

The ministers also reiterated their condemnation of terrorism, and expressed their determination for the sake of peace, stability and tranquility in the region, to continue their struggle, individually as well as collectively, against terrorism directed at their respective countries.

They expressed their grave concern over the human tragedy inflicted upon the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the lack of determined international action to put an expeditious end to the ongoing aggression against them. They also called upon the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia so as to enable those people to defend themselves and called for immediate actions to defend the right of those people and support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ministers decided to hold the next ministerial meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in November 1993.

Iranian President Receives Ministers

LD0706204693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] At the end of the fourth tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Iran, Ministers Faruq al- Shar', Hikmat Cetin, and Velayati were received by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday evening.

At the meeting Mr. Velayati submitted a report on the outcome of the session in Tehran. He said: The fourth session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria was held to deal with the situation in northern Iraq, and specifically Iraqi Kurdistan, and to adopt a joint stance on the issue. That issue is very important to the region and international forums.

The foreign ministers of Syria and Turkey conveyed the warmest greetings of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to the Iranian officials and nation. While thanking Iran for its hospitality, they expressed their views on the issues raised at the fourth tripartite Tehran session, the situation in northern Iraq, and the effects of the developments in that region on neighboring countries and the world.

The Iranian president then thanked the foreign ministers of Turkey and Syria for coming to Iran. He stressed the importance of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity. He said: The only way to guarantee a certain and desirable future for Iraq is through exercising the free and common will of all the people of Iraq, based on unity, democracy, and good-neighborly relations with neighboring countries.

While condemning any use of force and violence and suppression of the Iraqi nation, the president stressed the need for neighboring countries and international forums to take the necessary steps to guarantee that the fundamental rights of the people of Iraq are respected.

Finally, the president expressed concern about the regrettable situation of the people of Iraq. He expressed the hope that the international community will make the necessary decisions to solve this tragic situation.

Ministers Hold News Conference

LD0706210893 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday [7 June] denied that Iran was against the Damascus declaration. "Eight Arab countries have announced their desire to cooperate and Iran is not against it," he said. Velayati was addressing foreign and domestic journalists at a joint news conference with his Syrian and Turkish counterparts, Faruq al-Shar' and Hikmet Cetin. The three ministers held a one-day meeting here Monday, the fourth of its kind, to discuss the situation in the region, with particular emphasis on

the developments in neighboring Iraq. In a joint communique issued earlier, they called for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Asked about the prospect of Tehran-London ties and the Salman Rushdie issue if President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was re-elected, Velayati said it was up to the decision of the government of Britain. "If they do not provoke the question of Salman Rushdie, I don't think we need to have such a tense situation and tense relations," he said. The foreign minister stressed that Iran's stand towards Salman Rushdie had not changed. "This is a religious position and will not change." He criticized the west for sending Rushdie to "this and that country" and some of their high ranking officials meet with him and "try to make some noise in this connection." this, he said, is the main problem now.

ECO Aviation Experts Meet in Tehran

LD0706103693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Experts representing national airways of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries started their first session in Tehran this morning. In the meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran was chosen to chair the session, according to our reporter.

Mr. Bani-Najariyan, deputy minister for road and transport and the head of the National Airlines Corporation, then told the meeting that it was a consistent policy of the Corporation to expand the borders and ways of cooperation within the framework of the ECO.

He said cooperation between ECO country members on non-military aviation helps the progress and development of member countries, as well as aviation safety.

He said Iran values the expansion and progress of civil aviation on the national, regional, and international level and has invested extensively in the construction of new airports in the remotest parts of the country. To this end, private and state companies have been established and parts of the activities of the corporation have been privatized.

Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Georgia, and Azerbaijan are attending the two-day meeting. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Begins Meeting in Riyadh

LD0706160793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The meetings of the 47th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council began at noon today at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. The meetings will be chaired by the chairman of the session, UAE Foreign Minister Mr. Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi. [passage omitted]

The officials who arrived were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, His Excellency Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman Yusif Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, and His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

UAE's al-Na'imi Praises Border Decision

LD0706144893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1346 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 7 Jun, SPA—[passage omitted] His Excellency Rashid Bin-'Abdullah al-Na'imi [United Arab Emirates foreign minister] spoke at the opening session on behalf of their excellencies, royal highnesses, majesties, highnesses, and leaders of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states on the occasion of the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the founding of the GCC and wished this process all success to meet the aspirations of the people of the region. [passage omitted]

His excellency also welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 833, safeguarding the land and sea borders between Kuwait and Iraq, describing it as an important step toward establishing peace, security, and stability in the region. He said that the Iraqi regime was still taking its time to respond to the international resolutions guaranteeing security and stability in the region and that the Iraqi regime was obstructing all attempts made by the UN in this respect. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, the ministerial council began a closed session.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Participation in Talks Depends on U.S. Replies

TA0806060993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by correspondents Tzvi Bar'el and Dani Rubinstein in Tunis]

[Text] A senior source in Yasir 'Arafat's bureau said yesterday that 'Arafat has summoned the PLO leadership in Amman in an attempt to convince the Palestinian delegates to attend the 10th round of peace talks in Washington.

According to him, this issue is being bitterly debated because the Palestinians fear that Israel will not make

good on its promises, which the Americans presented to them on Israel's behalf. The promises include a timetable for the imminent return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees; the return of many old-time Palestinian deportees; the release of additional security prisoners, according to criteria to which Israel had agreed; and the determination of the autonomy's source of authority.

The senior source expressed his impression that the decision will be positive and that the Palestinian delegation will eventually go to Washington. At the same time, he stressed that until a final decision is made, no Palestinian element is authorized to say that the delegation will indeed go there.

Two days ago, 'Arafat told HA'ARETZ that the Tunis headquarters maintain a more moderate stand than the territories' leadership and that because of the different stands, he must invest serious efforts to convince the leadership of the territories to accept his stands. "They do not work for me. I cannot order them to go to Washington," he said. 'Arafat added that "the problem is not mine alone; it is also shared by the delegates who refuse to travel to Washington."

It appears that the main argument in PLO discussions is over the U.S. Administration's replies to the 10 Palestinian questions. Only four of them were answered, according to 'Arafat, and even these answers are not full. The United States was asked to clarify its stand regarding the linkage between the interim and the final arrangements and the issue of Jerusalem. In fact, the Palestinians want to learn whether the United States adheres to its traditional stand regarding Jerusalem and its interpretation of the autonomy council's source of authority. 'Arafat will send Faysal al-Husayni and several additional delegation leaders to Washington to receive detailed replies to these questions. The decision on the participation in the talks will be based on these answers.

'Arafat believes that a breakthrough can be reached in the next round of talks if Israel agrees that the principle of "Gaza First" should also include a West Bank location, such as Jericho or any other city or territory. He wants this "in order to show that I am not neglecting the West Bank, that I am not selling it out."

The PLO leader believes that he will be able to manage the Gaza Strip despite its difficult problems. "I have managed to direct and supervise events in Lebanon for 13 years, where there was a countless number of armies, militias, and ethnic groups," he said. According to him, if he assumes control over the Gaza Strip, Arab countries will be willing to invest large amounts of money to establish an economic infrastructure there. At the same time, 'Arafat said that the "Gaza First" solution entails the creation of an internationally supervised corridor to secure free and independent passage between the two regions.

Reacting to remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that all that is missing for the signature of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan is a pen, 'Arafat said he is not worried. The report on Peres' remarks reached the PLO leader late at night, during the discussion with the HA'ARETZ correspondents. He explained that the PLO has explicit promises from all the Arab countries, including Jordan and Syria, that they will not sign separate agreements with Israel.

Responding to a question on whether he should not be concerned by Peres' remarks, he said: "As you can see, an agreement between Jordan and Israel has not been signed." He believes that no Arab-Israeli agreement will be signed without the Palestinians. "We are the brakes," he said. He described his relations with all the Arab countries as good.

PLO's 'Abbas Comments on Talks, Hamas

NC0806060993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2016 GMT 7 June 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has affirmed that a new page in Palestinian-Gulf relations soon will open and that there is a genuine desire to eliminate all the shortcomings that have affected these relations since the Gulf war.

In statements to AL-AHRAM to be published on 8 June, he said there is Egyptian-Palestinian agreement on the importance of continuing the negotiations in Washington. Egypt, he added, has accurate information about the Palestinian strategy and shows particular interest in the negotiating process.

He stressed that accepting Israel's proposal on withdrawing from Gaza mainly depends on a declaration of principles according to the Palestinian concept.

Abu-Mazin denied that the Palestinians fear that some parties may reach separate accords with Israel. He emphasized that even if the Syrians reach an agreement, we do not think they will reach it without consulting the other parties. This is the result of Arab coordination, he said.

Abu-Mazin commented on the lack of Palestinian consensus on this point, especially concerning the negotiations that led to the resignation of Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and on what is being said about increasing competition between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PLO. He admitted that there is not complete consensus, but affirmed that there are basic facts that cannot be ignored. Foremost of these, he said, is that the PLO represents the Palestinian people. He added that opposition existed before Hamas was formed and that this opposition, which is legitimate, is also natural. It does not mean a split among the Palestinian people, but indicates varying views, he said.

'Urayqat Calls for International Sponsorship of Talks

JN0706113593 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Amman, 7 Jun (PETRA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations has called for Japan and West European countries to join the sponsoring of the peace process so that sponsorship will not be restricted to the United States and the Russian Federation.

In a statement following the first session held by the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the peace process, he said that the Palestinians demand to extend the sponsorship of the peace process is based on the fact that the United States is not a partner, arbitrator, or mediator in the peace process.

He stressed that the international patronage of the peace process will make it more balanced and feasible. The peace process should not remain dependent on the U.S. role. He added that Israel is considered the main obstacle to peace, and it seeks to introduce demographic changes in the occupied territories. He said that Israel is continuing its repressive actions against the Palestinian citizens in violation of international resolutions.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, said the Palestinians will not negotiate on parts of the occupied territories and insist that the solution be comprehensive in accordance with the international resolutions.

Dr. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member said that the Palestinians are waiting for a collective Arab position in order to decide their position on the peace process.

Shafiq al-Hut, PLO Executive Committee member, called for the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees who were deported from their homeland in 1948. He stressed that all those expelled from their homeland must be allowed to return.

He added that there are hostile plots aimed at evacuating the Palestinians from the occupied territories and that this calls for international intervention to stop these plots.

Delegate Views Peace Talks, Hamas Role

TA0706142493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 7 Jun 93 p 9

[Interview with Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the negotiating delegation, by Ghassan Bishara; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: What were the factors that convinced the delegation to resume the talks before Israel repatriated the 396 expellees in southern Lebanon?

A: It was nothing related to the process of negotiations which convinced us to return to the talks. In two separate (preparatory) sessions in Washington, it became clear to members of our delegation that the American stand regarding the terms of reference and the commitment to make Israel abide by those terms for the interim arrangements and for the final status was unsatisfactory.

The results of these two visits to Washington convinced us even more that we should not return to the talks. The results were more alarming because they offered us no assurances at all. This does not apply only to the substance of the negotiations and the role of the Americans, but also to the basic requirements, which address the general mood in the occupied territories after the expulsion and after the escalation of repressive Israeli measures. When we eventually evaluated the points for going back to the negotiations, we did not find them tempting at all. On the contrary, we felt more alarmed and determined not to go back.

For our political leadership, however, there were other considerations. They recognized that these negotiations are very important. They also recognized the importance of the American stance and of having substantive commitments by both the Israelis and Americans.

One of these considerations was the Arab position, which interprets Arab coordination in an unsatisfactory fashion. We should not accept that Arab interpretation which argues that we are just another party. The Palestinian issue has its special status. Thus, it cannot be dealt with on the same footing as the other Arab issues. This was an important consideration for our leadership.

Another one is the siege which the PLO has faced since the Gulf war and from which it continues to suffer, in spite of some breakthroughs. This argument could be taken the other way around; that under these circumstances, and especially because the PLO is under such a siege, we should feel more alarmed and be very careful not to make any fatal decision.

I think that we in the Palestinian national movement should recognize that we are now mature enough and that we can make our reality—inside and outside—play to our benefit, because we definitely complement one another. We can tell the Israelis that because we are under occupation, we cannot negotiate and only the PLO can.

Q: Did the delegation, by returning to the talks before Israel fulfilled a number of conditions set by the Palestinians, lose its credibility with Israel, the United States and the Palestinian public as well?

A: I fully agree that returning before Israel did something on the ground, or before it issued a real binding commitment, has undermined the credibility of the delegation. I believe it is high time for all the parties—not only the Israelis—to take us seriously. This is very important.

It is also high time to put it in crystal-clear terms to everybody that, unless our minimal requirements and demands are met, we will suspend the talks. We do not accept the idea that we have no other options but to continue the talks. This was made partially clear when the invitation was issued for April 20, and we agreed not to return unless we are satisfied.

Q: But the Palestinian delegation stayed away from the process for five months, and then came back while the expellees were still in Lebanon and the occupied territories were under siege. You can't understand why the Americans and the Israelis may not take you seriously?

A: I think this brings us to an important point: How to look at the negotiations. Definitely, I am one of those who believe that the negotiations themselves should not be held hostage to what the Israelis are doing to our people. But at the same time, our situation under the occupation has its special status. If it were like the U.S.-Vietnam situation, when negotiations were concluded while the war was continuing or even escalating, it would be a different matter. In our situation, we are not engaged in a war with Israel. Israel is waging war against us, and we are held hostages.

I must tell you that after a year and a half of talks with Israel, I am still waiting to see of seriousness from Israel—that they really want to make peace with the Palestinians as a people with national aspirations.

I believe there are many Israelis who want peace with the Palestinians based on mutual recognition. Maybe even some of those are found within the Israeli government; but as a whole, the government of Israel has not made up its mind yet, I think. I am saying this after deep reflection and careful study of the situation and the proposals they have submitted to us. I don't think they are ready for us yet. Israel knew what it takes to make peace with Egypt, and they asked for something in return.

Israel also knows what it takes to make peace with us, but it is not ready yet to put it on the table. The magic word—withdrawal or the readiness to withdraw—is not on the table yet.

Q: Without dwelling on the issue of money from the Saudis, is it good diplomacy to reinforce the view that money is playing a role in shaping Palestinian policy at this stage?

A: There is a real financial problem, not only for the PLO and our people outside, but also for our people under occupation. This has especially deteriorated since the Gulf war.

This reality is affecting our daily life, our institutions, universities, hospitals, etc. But in all honesty and in spite of all this, I would have preferred that the issue of lifting the financial embargo from the Palestinian people not be brought up during the deliberations.

So, in spite of these real difficulties, I think it is likely that the Americans and the Arab regime will misunderstand this and try to use it as a another pressure point. I think we should not have done it.

Q: If the delegation believes that Israel has not come to terms with Palestinian rights and nationalism, is it willing to consider less than that for a settlement?

A: I don't think that any member of the Palestinian delegation would accept less than that. This is a red line which no one will pass. This is why I feel sometimes that we—including the Palestinian opposition and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—need not differ among ourselves on this.

I am deeply convinced that the negotiations are but one front to fight for our national rights. This is a challenge, we accept it, and we can do a lot to serve our national rights through it.

Q: If Israel does not accept your objective—withdrawal—how do you think you can get what you want? And will you be ready to give up this "battlefront" altogether?

A: I think it is a mistake to think that we are only fighting on the negotiations front. The intifadah is our main asset, and if it were not for the intifadah, we would not be negotiating with Israel. It is the intifadah which brought home to the Israelis the price of not seeking peace with the Palestinians. It seems the Israelis have not paid a high enough price yet. Only by convincing them that the price will grow higher and higher will they see to it that they become more serious and deal with us as equals and address our national rights.

So the relationship between the negotiations and the intifadah is quite organic. The Israelis will either have to be persuaded through negotiations or, unfortunately, through paying a higher price. We, Palestinians, have to realize this and it makes me optimistic to see what we have achieved so far. We have to convince the Israelis that without addressing our national rights, there can be no peace.

Q: Are you saying that Hamas, in its own way, it helping the national goal through its message to Israel and to the other parties that there is another way besides the negotiations?

A: Sure. Hamas and all other nationalist forces are part of our national effort. Anybody who perceives Hamas from a factionalist approach is making a mistake. We are all in the same boat, and no nationalist movement can achieve its goals without national unity, especially we, the Palestinians, because of the complexities of our situation. We need national unity more than any such movement in history.

Having said that, I believe that all forces and colors of the nationalist movement have to be built on a different

basis than this factionalist attitude. At the same time, the Islamic movement has to be more realistic in its political program.

I believe that a major shortcoming of the PLO is that it has not helped to melt the factional differences between us. Furthermore, through its quota system, it has institutionalized factionalism. We have to address this as soon as possible, since we are on the verge of a new stage in our national movement.

Q: If settlements continue to be built, can you be assured that the Palestinian option of a state will still be viable in three years?

A: There are two major issues: the question of settlement activities and Jerusalem. Unless they are included within the interim arrangement, there will be no agreement.

I believe that whenever the issue of land is mentioned, it is basically the issue of settlements. There is no way to evade this. We have put it on our agenda from Day 1, meaning that without an end to the settlement activities, the whole exercise will be meaningless and futile. We are already suffering from the damage inflicted on us because of the existing settlements.

If they continue, it may become too late for any agreement unless Jerusalem is included in it. To exclude any part of the occupied territories from the Palestinian authority—other than for military or security reasons—would be unacceptable.

Q: How long can the delegation continue to participate in these talks if Israel does not halt all settlement activities?

A: Is is very important here to clarify this point. Yes, this negotiations process is important to us, but there is another important element, which is the time factor. Sometimes negotiations can last for five years or more.

For us, the time factor is very important. If the Israeli occupation was only a military occupation, we would keep fighting, resisting and negotiating—all at the same time. But there is a major difference in the Israeli occupation, in that it is creating new facts on the ground with those settlements.

Therefore, it would be a joke to continue unlimited negotiations.

PLO Asked To Withdraw Military Personnel From Tunisia

TA0706144493 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 7 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] The Tunisian Government, in a step having many impications, has asked the PLO to withdraw Palestinian military personnel from Tunisian territory and to limit Palestinian presence in Tunisia to the political leadership and cadres.

Observers view this step by Tunisia as a prelude to other, new steps that will be carried out within the next few weeks.

AL-MANAR has learned form a high-level source that the Tunisian request was carried by Hakam Bal'awi, who has been very close to the Tunisian leadership for many years and who is the one who decides which Palestinians can enter Tunisian territory.

Political circles believe that the Tunisian request, which the Palestinian leadership has begun to implement, will undermine Bal'awi's status, which had increased because of the presence of the Palestinian leadership's headquarters and offices in the Tunisian capital. These circles add that Cairo has been nominated to host the Palestinian leadership in the near future.

The same circles believe that the Palestinian leadership is interested in being present at the coming stage in the Egyptian capital because of its closeness to events and because of Egypt's large role in the peace process.

In a related development, a Palestinian source has affirmed that King Hassan II of Morocco has called on the Palestinian leadership to dissolve the PLO in light of the fact that Rabat expects the Palestinian problem to be resolved and peace be achieved in no more than four months.

Moreover, the source added that Arab political circles have proposed to the Palestinian leadership to set up a government-in-exile that can be transferred in the future to the occupied territories. Arab states have pledged to appoint five leading Palestinian officials to the transitional council that is expected to be formed at the beginning of the transitional stage.

'Arafat Discusses Peace Process With UK Official

LD0706182993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Mr. Mark Elliott, first deputy undersecretary of the British Foreign Office, at noon today in the presence of the British charge d'affaires.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments of the peace process in the Middle East region and its lack of progress due to Israel's obstinacy and its detour around the principles of the peace process, the U.S. retraction from the bases of the Madrid conference, and the two invitations presented to the Palestinian side, in addition to the operations of murder, oppression, closing of the occupied territories, and isolation of the city of Jerusalem practiced by the Israeli Government.

The meeting also discussed the means and efforts for creating a favorable and suitable climate in the interests of pushing the peace process forward, were also discussed. In this respect, brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed the important role Britain could play in the peace process.

Arab League Chief Confers With 'Arafat's Adviser

NC0706143993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed developments in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the outcome of the cordon states foreign ministers' meetings, which were held in Amman yesterday. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed Dr. Sha'th on the outcome of his recent visit to China.

Nabil Sha'th said that the talks also touched on the ninth round of Arab-Israeli negotations and what steps could be taken during the 10th round. We are in complete agreement that the upcoming round is very important and that we must work very carefully and with a united Arab stand to realize the interests of the Palestinian people, Dr. Sha'th added.

In his remarks, Dr. Sha'th said that he has called on the Arab League to play two important roles. The first of these roles is to continue efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, noting that Egypt has made strenuous efforts in this regard. He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation's current visit to Abu Dhabi and Qatar falls within this context.

Dr. Sha'th added that the second role which should be played by the Arab League is to ensure that an Arab position is taken to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli persecution, oppression, and acts of violence, and also to end the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Jerusalem.

Dr. Sha'th reaffirmed the Palestinian people's competence to conduct the negotiations, adding that Palestine is aware of the Arab League's strategic importance despite the circumstances that the region is experiencing.

To a question about the Palestinian delegation's demands during the 10th round, Dr. Sha'th said: Our demands are clear, are based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and are made according to the land-for-peace principle. He said that all these principles emphasize that during the transition period, all powers will be transferred to the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories until a final solution is reached. The final solution will clarify the right to self-determination, Dr. Sha'th added.

Dr. Sha'th said: We are not against the U.S. intervention in and support for the peace process. But this intervention must be based on what the United States had advocated in the invitations to the peace negotiations and in its assurances. He warned against resolving the issue of Jerusalem and the settlements outside this framework.

Sha'th stressed that no Palestinian negotiator can give up Jerusalem or accept the legitimacy of the Israeli settlement activity. He said that these two points are a stumbling bloc to any progress in the negotiations. If the United States wants to make any progress, it must intervene in this respect.

Sha'th said the Palestinians must have the right to legislate without intervention from the Israeli authorities. In addition, the concept of security is not clear yet. He added: We want a clear concept of security and of the extent of Palestinian authority.

Sha'th called for a halt to the violation of human rights and international law in the occupied territories. He also called for lifting the blockade on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and for the immediate return of all the deportees. Israel should also pledge not to resort to more deportations and should release Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

Answering a question on the future of the peace process, Sha'th said: We have rights and a just cause. We must be optimistic and must believe that our rights will be regained. However, Israel is placing obstacles along this path.

Al-Rantisi Urges Boycott of Upcoming Round of Talks

NC0606133093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon, today called on the Palestinian negotiators to boycott the 10th round of peace talks even if the deportees are allowed to return to their homes. He said the talks will lead to the liquidation of the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's rights.

Paper Urges Participation in 10th Round of Talks

TA0706155293 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Preparation To Participate in the 10th Round"]

[Text] The cordon ministers meeting in Amman is one of the coordinating links among elements of the Arab negotiating side that is held whenever the date for a new round of negotiations approaches. The clearer and firmer the Arab coordination and the translation of its steps, the more it is in the interest of Arab causes and positions.

Reports indicate that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will this week issue invitations to attend the 10th round. The Palestinian side is called upon to accept this invitation and refrain from preoccupying itself with the question of whether to do so or not. Wavering on this issue and transforming the invitation into a point of dispute is a waste of time. From the outset, participating in the negotiations was a sound decision based on circumstances and realities that remain relevant. It is essential to continue the peace process, which is a

political battle requiring firmness, patience, and struggle against the other party. The other parties in the negotiating process are prepared to continue and reach agreements, whether the Palestinian side participates or not.

We waste a great deal time in debate and discussion over whether to or not participate with the preparations for each round. Therefore, the negotiating delegation should prepare itself to continue the battle armed with its competence and the confidence of its people, ignoring the voices raised here and there calling on it to suspend or reject participation. This is a vicious battle that has not yet ended. Let us be ready to score victory and realize achievements.

Daily: Negotiating Process Requires 'Credibility'

TA0706181293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Talks Require Credibility"]

[Text] It is obvious that preparations to resume the negotiating process are now in full swing. The Arab cordon states directly involved in the negotiating process began a coordinating meeting yesterday in Amman. At this meeting, the Arab foreign ministers concerned will review the results of the ninth round and deliberate on requirements for the success of the negotiating process upon its resumption.

In a related development, a series of political moves was carried out recently centered on Cairo. On one hand, continued contacts between Egypt and Israel affirm the development of the negotiating process. On the other hand, Palestinian-Egyptian meetings have been held for the same purpose. In fact, Cairo is playing the role of a prominent but quiet broker in the negotiating process in a bid to overcome the numerous obstacles facing the chances of success in the talks.

In another development, the United States is currently exerting new efforts aimed at reaching a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles. To ensure the success of the negotiating process when it resumes, Washington is trying to conclude such an agreement before the process resumes with all its participants. On this basis, Washington has invited a Palestinian delegation to the U.S. State Department before it reenters the negotiating process. This will provide a suitable opportunity to resolve differences over the central points in the expected declaration.

All moves and preparations currently under way on various levels have been tested in the past and have failed to advance the negotiating process or break the Israeli stalemate. Since the issue of renewed participation in the process "is not under discussion"—it does require discussion—we remind the Palestinians that a minimum faith requires them to refuse to return to the negotiating table unless they obtain written pledges instead of verbal ones like last time. Moreover, a minimum faith requires the assembled Arab parties not to go along with the U.S. request to resume the ninth round's meetings but to continue to insist on the need to receive new invitations to participate in the 10th round.

After obtaining these two procedural demands, the Arab parties assembled in Amman should decide on ways of alleviating the Palestinian people's suffering and lifting the blockade from Jerusalem to give some credibility to the negotiating process, which it sorely needs. Naturally, this will be a basic test that must not be avoided.

OPEC Affairs

IEA Says OPEC Exceeds Output Limit by 620,000 BPD

AU0706135193 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Paris, June 7 (AFP)—Oil output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) exceeded the OPEC ceiling by 620,000 barrels per day (BPD) in May, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Monday [7 June].

In its monthly report published the day before an OPEC meeting in Geneva, the IEA said that OPEC output in May increased slightly to 24.2 million barrels a day (MBD) from 24.1 million barrels in April.

OPEC has set itself a limit of 23.58 MBD.

The increase was caused mainly by an increase in output from the neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and by increased output in Nigeria to 1.88 MBD from 1.83 MBD, the IEA said in its monthly report.

Initial estimates showed that production by Saudi Arabia was unchanged at 7.95 million barrels per day (MBD) and in Iran at 3.55 MBD, excluding output from the neutral zone, the agency reported.

Demand for oil from the 24 members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the first quarter of 1993 increased by about 0.7 percent or by 300,000 BDP from the figure for the same period of 1992 to total 39.8 MBD. Demand exceeded recent IEA forecasts that demand would increase by 200,000 BPD.

The increase in demand came mainly from the United States in February and March, the agency said.

In the second quarter of the year OECD demand was expected to increase by 500,000 barrels or by 1.5 percent from the figure for the same period of last year to a total of 37.8 MBD.

Demand from north America was expected to increase by about two percent to 19 MBD while European demand would remain at about 13 MBD. Demand from the Pacific zone of the OECD would grow by about two percent to 5.8 MBD.

Oil exports by Russia were believed to have increased by 1.6-1.7 MBD in April and in the first half of May. Production was 7.07 MBD compared with 7.12 MBD the previous month. IEA experts held that the latest figures pointed to a slowing of the rate at which Russian output was declining.

Total OECD stocks were unchanged. A reduction of stocks of crude oil, petrol and fuel had been balanced by an increase in stocks of distilled products. Industrial stocks rose by one million tonnes in April to 314 million tonnes. Stocks controlled by governments rose by five million tonnes to 146 million.

Refining margins were little changed in Europe and in the United States but rose in Singapore.

The IEA said that the average price of imported crude oil fell in May to 17.70 dollars per barrel from 17.80 dollars in April and from 18.53 dollars in May 1992.

OPEC Meeting in Geneva Discusses Production Levels

LD0806103993 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1000 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is holding a crucial meeting in Geneva to discuss production levels. OPEC members are divided over demands by Kuwait to increase oil output in the third quarter of this year. The organization's president, Alirio Parra of Venezuela, said his fellow oil ministers should be cautious because of the weakness of the market. Iran, Algeria, and Libya are all expected to call for production to remain at its current level of 23.6 million barrels per day.

Algeria

FIS Leader Rabah Kebir Arrested in Bonn

LD0706202593 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] [Announcer] We have just heard that Rabah Kebir, one of the most sought after Algerian leaders, has been arrested in Bonn. Rabah Kebir was in many ways the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] spokesperson in Europe. He has been placed under judicial control [sous surveillance judiciaire]. Here is Jerome Bastian on the line from Algiers:

[Bastian] Last September the political and foreign affairs charge d'affaires of the FIS, dissolved in March 1992, fled Algeria using a false identity. Under house arrest since February after a second arrest—the first was during the general strikes of June 1991—Rabah Kebir had been a member of the FIS's highest body, the Consultative Council, since the arrest of its leaders. This 37-year-old physics professor who had for a long time been considered as a legalist in the nationalist tendency had nonetheless implicitly supported the armed struggle for several months. It is as a result of this that he was condemned to death on 26 May, along with 25 others accused in the case of the attack on the airport. This ruling should allow him to avoid extradition by the German authorities. There is no convention between the two countries and it is unlikely that Germany, where the death sentence has been abolished, would send home a foreign national and expose him to the death penalty.

The spokesman of the dissolved FIS, who has already been judged to be undesirable in France, was not therefore enjoying political asylum in his host country. One must consider that there is new cooperation between the European countries and Algeria on the issue of the anti-Islamist struggle. The prime minister was, during this trial, on a long visit to Germany. It remains to be seen whether France, after a ban of a fundamentalist magazine with FIS tendencies, will take similar measures, and what these countries will do with these inconvenient guests. This is Jerome Bastian in Algiers for RFI.

[Announcer] The national conference planned for some time in Algeria will begin on 5 July, the anniversary of independence. It will bring together all the parties who have taken part in the political dialogue over recent weeks.

Further on Arrests

LD0806103193 Hamburg DPA in German 0907 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The German police have arrested two leading members of the "Islamic Salvation Front" (FIS), which is banned in Algeria, on the basis of an international arrest warrant. A spokesman of the Justice Ministry said in Bonn today that they are FIS foreign spokesman Cheikh Rabah Kebir and one of the sons of the FIS leader Abassi Madani. Kebir was detained in Euskirchen yesterday and the son of the FIS leader a few days ago in Passau.

Both have been condemned in Algeria, in abstentia, to death for involvement in acts of terrorism. Abassi Madani is serving a 12- year prison sentence in Algeria at present. According to the Justice Ministry spokesman, there was an international arrest warrant for the two men detained. The courts are at present checking the possibility of extraditing the Algerians.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Congressman's Message

LD0706204893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign minister, has received a message from Mr. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. The message was within the framework of the spirit of the positive talks between the the two countries' officials during Redha Malek's recent visit to Washington.

Malek Meets UK Politician

LD0706205393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign minister, has met at the Foreign Ministry Mr. David Howell, chairman of the British House of Commons Political Affairs Select Committee, who conveyed to him a message from Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The meeting, which was attended by the British ambassador in Algiers and a number of cadres from the Foreign Ministry, was an opportunity to examine a number of bilateral and international topics of mutual interest.

Constantine Municipality Executive Inaugurated

LD0706175093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The official inauguration of the executive delegation of Constantine municipality was carried out today in the presence of provincial authorities and local cadres, following the dissolution of the former municipal People's Council. Further details from radio correspondent Rabeh Benmili in Constantine:

[Benmili] The noticeable thing in the constitution of this delegation, that includes some 11 members headed by Mr. Boudouda Mohamed Taher who was occupying the post of head of Constantine Governorate subdivision, is that it includes administrators with long experience in discharging local affairs. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Syrian Delegation Arrives for Joint Committee Meeting

NC0706121993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Cairo today at the head of an 11-member ministerial delegation to attend the fifth session of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee. He was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and several ministers.

Al-Zu'bi commended the fraternal and distinguished relations between Egyptian and Syrian peoples and between the Egyptian and Syrian leaderships. This has had great effect in strengthening relations between the two countries and peoples and in cultivating economic relations and the projects of the joint higher committees.

Dr. Sidqi said we have succeeded in establishing bridges of good cooperation between Egypt and Syria. There are good indications that this cooperation will be strengthened in other new fields, a topic which will be discussed during the meetings of the joint higher committee, which will start this evening.

Sidqi, Syrian Prime Minister Comment

NC0706211793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Meetings of the fifth session of the joint higher Egyptian-Syrian committee began at the Prime Ministry this evening. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi led the Egyptian side while the Syrian side was headed by Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al- Zu'bi.

Dr. Sidqi said after the meeting that they discussed all means to consolidate economic, trade, and technical cooperation between Egypt and Syria. He described Egyptian-Syrian relations as excellent and said that there is full coordination between the two fraternal countries in all areas.

Syrian Prime Minister al-Zu'bi said Egyptian-Syrian relations have always been positive. He added that serious measures were taken during previous sessions of the higher committee to advance cooperation in order to reach full coordination between the two countries, especially in increasing the volume of trade in Egyptian and Syrian goods instead of imports from abroad.

He said that the higher committee reviewed the Arab and regional situation and measures to back the Arab nation's interests. He noted that the Damascus Declaration is a plan in the Arab nation's interest and that the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries foreign ministers, due to be held in June, will dot the i's with regard to this plan.

The Syrian prime minister said agreement was reached in today's meeting to set up a number of joint Egyptian-Syrian companies for land and maritime transport. Agreement was also reached for Alexandria shipyard to build two cargo ships for Syria. It was decided to hold a meeting of the representatives of Egyptian and Syrian businessmen in Cairo tomorrow to discuss cooperation in trade and investment in the coming phase.

Dr. Sidqi hosted a dinner banquet for the Syrian prime minister and the delegation accompanying him.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo on 'Short' Visit

NC0706160993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1552 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MRNA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a short visit. He was met at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo.

'Arafat on Peace Process

NC0706183393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed the importance of the role of the United States and Russia in pushing forward the Middle East peace process in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace talks. He called on the two states to ensure that Israel abide by and adhere to the bases of peace in the Middle East—namely President Bush's initiative, the letter of invitation, and the letter of assurances, on the bases of which the Palestinian delegation attended the Madrid conference. He explained that without this, matters will remain in a state of flux.

In a statement to MENA, 'Arafat said the cosponsors, especially the United States, must play a more effective role. There should also be Arab moves to push these matters forward through a concerted Arab stand that will at least meet the need to face current world developments and the challenges confronting the Arab nation.

On the future of relations between the PLO and the Gulf states in light of a recent visit by a PLO delegation to the United Arab Emirates, 'Arafat said: The delegation will continue its endeavors in Qatar. We hope it will continue its Gulf tour. We will continue to extend our hands to our Arab brothers, especially in the Gulf, to repair the bridges and rebuild Arab solidarity on strong and solid bases to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation in the new world, which "we are either a part of or we are not."

Asked his opinion of the progress made so far in the peace process, 'Arafat said: Regrettably, I say that after nine rounds nothing of value has been achieved on the Palestinian track. The Israeli stands have remained as

they were and have not changed since the Shamir government. There are still attempts to bypass the terms of reference agreed upon, which are land for peace and implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This means withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, securing the Palestinian people's legitimate security rights, and security for all in the region.

'Arafat explained that Israel continues to attempt to bypass the bases on which the Madrid conference was held.

'Arafat said that in the last round, the Israeli stands remained the same. In addition, Israel seriously escalated its official and organized terrorism against our people, children, and women. According to Israeli sources, including the Israeli human rights committee, May was the bloodiest month, which was the month of the ninth round. During that month, 39 Palestinians, including 13 children, were martyred, and 1,198 people were injured. In addition, many Palestinians were arrested and several houses were blown up. He added: Hence, we see escalation on the ground at the same time that the talks on the Palestinian track have not made any progress.

On the possibility of reaching an agreement with Israel before the end of the year, 'Arafat said: If we arrive at peace before the end of this year, this means there has been progress. He added: If there is any Israeli intention, we will need at least six months to implement it. However, this intention has not appeared so far to make progress on the Palestinian track.

Continuing his statement to MENA, 'Arafat said: I am by nature optimistic. One should not lose hope in any settlement process. Our people are negotiating. At the same time, they are maintaining their blessed intifadah, which will continue wave after wave. God willing, the Palestinian flag will soon fly over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

'Arafat stressed that he will participate in the African summit to be held in Cairo at the end of this month on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity. He said: God willing, I will be here on that date to celebrate this anniversary with my Egyptian and African brothers.

'Arafat Departs for Amman

NC0706170693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Amman this evening following a one-hour stopover at Cairo airport.

During his short stay at the airport, the Palestinian president met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo.

One Killed, 14 Injured in Blast on Pyramids Road

NC0806130293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] A responsible security source has said that at approximately 0930 this morning, an explosive device was detonated in the Nasr al-Din Tunnel leading to the Pyramids road, destroying a nearby car. Nine Egyptians were wounded in the incident, two seriously. Five Britons also were wounded when the glass of the tourist bus in which they were riding behind the car shattered. The injured were taken to Umm al-Masriyyin and al-Ahram Hospitals, where it was determined that the tourists' injuries were minor. They were given immediate first aid. An Egyptian citizen was killed in the incident.

Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi, leading Interior Ministry officials, and criminal laboratory experts arrived at the scene. The investigation departments are attempting to find out the circumstances of the incident and arrest those responsible. The State Security Prosecution Office has been notified to start investigations. The interior minister visited all the injured at the hospitals.

Device Linked to Earlier Attacks

NC0806130393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—Experts at the Interior Ministry's forensics laboratory inspected the scene of the explosion which occurred in the tunnel leading to the Pyramids this morning. The examination revealed that the explosion was caused by an explosive charge composed of a metal container filled with a highly explosive material. The charge was hurled from the railway overpass at a Mena Tours bus that was traveling to the Pyramids in the right lane of the tunnel. The charge missed the bus and fell on a Mercedes passing through the tunnel.

Forensics experts disclosed that the charge contained a large number of small nails. It is identical to the charges used in earlier attacks on the Wadi al-Nil cafe, the tourist bus in al- Tahrir Square, and the recent attack against a police roadblock in the al-Hayy al-'Ashir in Nasr City. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Network Uncovered at Port Said Jail

NC0806072993 Paris AFP in English 0358 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 8 (AFP)—Egyptian security services have uncovered a fundamentalist "terrorist" network directed from a jail in northern Port Said, the semi-official AL-JUMHURIYAH reported Tuesday [8 June].

The group of 95 fundamentalists belonging to the underground al-Jihad Organization planned "terrorist" operations in the northern Nile Delta province of Damietta, the paper said.

The paper said the network was led by Ibrahim Taha, 55, and was in contact with Egyptian fundamentalist spiritual leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who lives in exile in the United States.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said the fundamentalists were given briefs to commit acts of terrorism on their release, including assassinations and arson.

Five former members of al-Jihad named the 95 to police, the paper said.

They are serving sentences in Port Said, 220 kilometers (135 miles) northeast of Cairo, for attacks against shops and a police officer in Damietta province, the paper said.

Military To Try 735; Mubarak Assassination Plot Uncovered

NC0806141893 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Tharwat Shalabi]

[Text] The president will soon refer to military tribunals 735 extremists indicted in Higher State Security cases No. 123 and 193 for 1993 in connection with their attempt to restructure al-Jihad Organization. AL-AHALI has learned that 1,200 suspects were originally arrested, of whom 735 were indicted. The remainder will be released.

AL-AHALI also learned that the new organization was found to possess documents and maps that included the addresses of senior government officials. The organization had also placed President Mubarak under surveillance and drawn up a plan to assassinate him.

The defendants include Pakistani, Afghan, Sudanese, and Saudi nationals who operated under noms de guerre and undertook to finance the organization, supply it with weapons, and train its members in Peshawar (between Afghanistan and Pakistan) and Sudan. They also include some Palestinian members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Some of the defendants were arrested inside Egyptian territorial waters in the Mediterranean off the eastern coastal town of Shaykh Zuwayyid. Others were arrested while visiting relatives in Egypt using fake passports and identities.

A security agency succeeded in arresting the defendants in December 1992. Sophisticated firearms, RPG launchers, and incendiary bombs were found with them. They confessed to the charge of arms possession with the aim of implementing their criminal schemes.

Libya

OAU Secretary General Blames West for Crisis

LD0606212093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the Organization of African Unity [OAU], arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Upon his arrival, the OAU secretary general gave a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah falls within the framework of the continuous consultations on issues which are of interest to the African continent. The Great Jamahiriyah is an important and active member of the OAU, he stated.

He pointed out that what the Great Jamahiriyah is subjected to within the context of the crisis between it and the Western countries is an attempt by the Western countries to control the African continent and return to it. He pointed out that the OAU is exerting efforts to solve this crisis and lift the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

Concerning the conflicts witnessed by the African continent, the brother OAU secretary general said that the OAU is exerting efforts in order to find solutions to these conflicts and put an end to the cases of tension in the African continent, particularly in Somalia, Angola, Liberia, and South Africa.

Front: Pilgrimage Exposes Regime's 'Isolation'

PM0806102893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front: Jerusalem Visit Exposed Regime's Isolation"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan National Salvation Front renewed in a statement yesterday its call for toppling the regime of Libyan leader Colonel Mum'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. It said that the visit to occupied Jerusalem by 192 Libyan "pilgrims" has exposed the extent of the isolation from which Libyan is suffering. The Front's statement, a copy of which has been obtained by AL-HAYAH, includes the following:

1. What happened embodies the recklessness and indifference with which the regime has been running Libya's domestic and foreign policies.

2. That move has revealed the extent of the real isolation from which the regime is suffering.

3. The excuses for the visit fooled no one, and the Front condemns al-Qadhdhafi's attacks and false accusations against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

4. The Front seizes this opportunity to urge all Libyan citizens to unite, sense the dangers surrounding the homeland, and work jointly to rescue Libya, topple the present regime, and establish a national constitutional democratic alternative that looks after and protects rights.

5. The Arab brothers are urged not to help the Libyan regime.

6. The Front will continue and step up the struggle until our people achieve their aspiration to a free, democratic, constitutional life.

Morocco

Minister Views Upcoming Legislative Elections

LD0706133193 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, June 7 (MAP)—The Moroccan Government adopted the necessary measures to secure to the coming legislative elections all conditions of success, transparency and honesty, said Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

At a meeting Friday with the Moroccan and international media accredited to Rabat, Basri said that the government met all the requests made by the national commission entrusted with supervising electoral operations and that the circulars bearing instructions on the various phases of the ballot were drafted in agreement with the commission.

Basri listed among the measures made to ensure honesty to the elections, the purging out of the voters' lists from which some 60,000 voters are dropped because of double registration and the issuing of a new voter's card bearing several serial numbers.

After he recalled that 222 MPs will be elected at direct universal suffrage and 111 will be elected at indirect universal suffrage, which implies several territorial and socio-professional electoral colleges, and that eligibility age was lowered from 25 to 23, Basri said all political parties will have equal access to the public radio and TV and that for the first time the Moroccan TV will organize 'face-to-face' programs between political leaders.

Besides, Basri said, provincial commissions chaired by magistrates and including delegates of political parties will also control the unfolding of the ballot as an additional guarantee to the honesty of the elections.

Dealing with the funding of the electoral campaign, Basri said that the government which vehemently condemns the resort to 'dirty money' had elaborated a text enabling a close control of such practices and that specialized commissions will control the use of funds.

Basri added that the state will contribute 100 million dirhams (USD 1 = 9 DH) to the electoral campaign and that the elections code of ethics (regulating the electoral campaign, the organization and functioning of polling stations, the unfolding of the ballot and proclamation of results) has set 100,000 DH as a ceiling for each candidate's campaign.

The code, he said, provides for means to check that the funds supplied by the state to political parties had actually been used for the electoral campaign. It also prohibits any secret financing, the abuse of power or influence or the exercise of any kind of pressure.

To a question on the suppression of the seats of the MPs representing the Moroccan community settled abroad, Basri said the previous experience showed that once elected, these MPs came to Rabat to participate in the parliamentary sessions and were consequently far from their electorate. The government is currently exploring other means to enable Moroccans living abroad have a representative body likely to meet their aspirations, he said.

As to the possibility for independent candidates to run for the elections, Basri said the Moroccan law guarantees the freedom to adhere to a political party, to form a party, to exercise activities within a party and to be candidate to elections at whatever level. Anyone feeling he is up to the task and meeting the required conditions can therefore run for the elections, Basri said.

Regarding the presence of foreign observers during the coming elections, Basri said all foreign observers willing to officially come to Morocco are welcome. The EEC, and American, African and Arab organizations which voiced the wish to come to Morocco are Morocco is a country of overture are welcome, Basri [passage indistinct].

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Delegation

LD0706155793 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The Iranian delegation led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Bisharati began its discussions with officials of his majesty's government. The delegation was received this morning by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. The two sides discussed bilateral and international issues of joint concern.

During this meeting views were exchanged on action to strengthen dialogue between Islamic peoples and to find ways of guaranteeing that they can form a united entity in coexistence, development, and prosperity.

Both the Moroccan and Iranian sides expressed hopes of strengthening relations and cooperation in the near future.

The talks between Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and the Iranian first deputy foreign minister concerned the strengthening and developing of bilateral cooperation, especially in the political, cultural, economic, and commercial fields. They agreed to breathe new life into bilateral cooperation.

King Hassan Receives UN Official

LD0706163693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] At the royal court in Rabat this afternoon, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, special representative of the UN secretary general in charge of organizing the referendum in the Moroccan Sahara.

Sudan

Government Bans Imports of Certain Goods

EA0806110093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Commerce, Cooperation, and Supply Minister Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah has issued an order banning the import of commodities, in accordance with the Supervision of Commodities Act of 1978/1993.

The order bans the import of the following commodities and products: Intoxicating drinks, narcotics, weapons, ammunition and explosives except with a permit, equipment and machines for playing of [word indistinct], mineral and gaseous waters, sugar, textiles, knitwear, and ready-made clothes, (?cigars), marquetry, canned foods with the exception of sauces and powdered milk, sweets and biscuits, macaroni and vermicelli, meat, slaughtered or live animals with the exception of hybridization stock, chicken and eggs with the exception of day-old chicks, shoes and leather with the exception of artificial leather, washing soap, fruits and vegetables, household goods of all kinds, plastic flowers, air conditioners and air coolers, household furniture, doors and windows, vehicles, saloon cars and [word indistinct], refrigerators, television sets, videos, and tape recorders.

The order states that anyone who infringes it will be subject to punishments stipulated in the Supervision of Commodities Act of 1978 or any other punishments.

Private Companies Allowed To Import Oil

EA0406171793 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 4 Jun (SUNA)—Navy Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers and minister of energy and mining, has confirmed that the government will encourage companies in the private sector to import and distribute oil. However, the government will be responsible for supervision and issuing regulations.

He added in a statement to SUNA that practical steps have already been taken in this regard to let the private sector enter the field of importing firunsi [as received] oil for aircraft. He said agreements have been reached between the ministry and the Mobil and Shell companies to remove obstacles to the entry of the private sector into the oil importation business.

In response to a question from SUNA on the quality of Sudanese oil, he said that Sudanese oil is regarded as one of the best in the world in terms of technical specifications and the presence of large quantities of wax which can be exploited commercially. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Envoy on Need for Direct Contacts

NC0706131893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Hasan Jad al-Haqq, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan, has stressed that efforts are under way to clear the tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Ambassador Jad-al-Haqq, who is now in Cairo, said in an exclusive interview with MENA that these efforts must continue in order to overcome the current crisis, adding that the historical and special ties between the two peoples necessitate that whatever may divide the two peoples as well as any tension between them must be eliminated through direct and bilateral contacts.

He noted that Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa met several times to try to contain the crisis and eliminate the source of tension. He added that the meetings took place in Addis Ababa, during the OAU ministerial conference; at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, during the Arab League foreign ministers meeting; and in Jakarta, on the sidelines of the nonaligned meeting. The Egyptian ambassador pointed out that he personally had met with the Sudanese foreign minister and a number of Sudanese officials in Sudan, out of the two parties' belief in the need to settle all causes of tension.

Ambassador Jad-al-Haqq added that some fraternal Arab states had made efforts to improve Egyptian-Sudanese relations, noting that Syria, Libya, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Moroccan King Hassan II had exerted efforts in this regard. He added: Although we greatly appreciate these endeavors, Egypt believes that the relations between the two countries are too deep to require mediation and that attention must always focus on direct and bilateral contacts.

Asked how optimistic he is about overcoming the current tension in relations, Ambassador Jad-al-Haqq noted that he is still optimistic and expressed his belief that there is hope that the ongoing efforts will enable the two peoples to overcome this transitional crisis and achieve positive results.

Asked if Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, will attend the upcoming African summit in Cairo, Ambassador Jad-al-Haqq said that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said some 10 days ago that no decision has been made regarding his participation, thus leaving the door open for his possible participation. He noted that he had handed Lt. Gen. al- Bashir an invitation to attend the meeting.

Asked if the Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee set up to discuss the cause of tension will resume its meetings, he noted that the committee is supposed to hold its upcoming meeting in Cairo at a date to be agreed upon by the two sides, adding that the last meeting was held in Khartoum in March. He pointed out that the two sides had agreed to hold the upcoming meeting in Cairo.

Concluding his remarks, the ambassador hoped that the current crisis will be overcome and things will return to normal between the two fraternal peoples.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Affirms Death Sentences To Be Carried Out

LD0706220993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1928 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, 7 June, (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, affirmed that any death sentence will be carried out after it is signed by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait, emphasizing at the same time that "any sentence, be it a death sentence, or otherwise, will be carried out."

Shaykh Sabah's affirmations came here this evening in a reply to a press question on the extent of Kuwait's seriousness in carrying out the death sentences passed by the State Security Court, including the death sentence passed on the so-called head of the provisional government which the Iraqi regime announced after the invasion of Kuwait.

On Kuwait's adherence to the rulings of the Arab boycott of Israel, Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait will not absolve itself of the direct boycott of Israel, but Kuwait and other Arab countries have absolved themselves of the indirect boycott for considerations connected with national interest, whereby the boycott rulings allow for such an absolution if there are considerations connected with the national interest of the state.

Shaykh Sabah gave an example, noting that there is a type of military jeep which was boycotted in the past, but it was imported later because that served the national interest. In consequence, the national interest criterion concerning the indirect boycott rulings constitute the basis which Kuwait starts from in dealing with the boycott issue.

In a reply to a question about the relations between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries and Iran, Shaykh Sabah said: "There is a decision which emanated from the GCC summit affirming that relations of between the Council countries and Iran should be based on non-interference in internal affairs," and we hope that this cooperation will last with the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with our desire.

Concerning the impossibility of establishing regional security in the region without Iran, Shaykh Sabah said: "We must know that Iran is there in the region, and the issue is not that a security agreement cannot be achieved without Iran." There is cooperation and many other things between us and Iran, but we [sentence incomplete as received]

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah expressed his hope that the coming summit meeting of the Council leaders in Riyadh will achieve the aspirations of the Council's peoples. He added that the Council has, since its creation, achieved a lot, but not as much as we wished. We are not completely satisfied, but we have achieved 50 percent, and, God willing, the other 50 percent will be achieved in the coming future.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Yemeni Initiative on Relations

LD0706214893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpt] First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir has welcomed the new Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah's statement on relations between Kuwait and Yemen. The Yemeni foreign minister affirmed, in an interview with AL-SIYASAH on Thursday, that he was putting the question of the resumption of relations between Yemen and Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the forefront of his priorities. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Al-Qadhdafi Example of 'Absolute Capitulation' to Israel

PM0706144293 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Al-Qadhdhafi... and Libyan Pilgrimage!!"]

[Text] For al-Qadhdhafi, to practice his strange habits in stirring up the Arab and world media is just one of his fits. The nature of this man—who remained under the protection of the two parties to the Cold War, and who has distorted the Arab personality with his unsound behavior, such as isolating himself in a tent, moving into a neighboring Arab state to proclaim union, canceling his country's currency, and staging demonstrations in Libya's streets to implement the third revolution in his Green Book—is again illustrated in his dispatch of 192 visitors to Jerusalem, ensuring that the visit coincides with the pilgrimage season and the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The man is sick, especially when he is out of the limelight for any reason. He wants to remain there, whether or not his behavior is sound. As a result of his behavior, he has rendered a great service in making the Arab personality a (caricature) comical personality—which should have prompted those who opened the borders for him, held talks with him, and made him an important figure to realize how they contributed to the mistake of introducing him to the world or magnifying him to his people in such a way that he finds himself the object of respect and excitement among all Arab circles.

The issue of his delegations to Jerusalem was said to be a natural result of the suspicions raised about al-Qadhdhafi and his old relations with Israel. It is also said that it is an attempt to seek its mediation to secure the lifting of the embargo on Libya and improve his image in the West. Even if we take into consideration the proportions of right and wrong in al-Qadhdhafi's behavior, the

West, and even Israel, will not be convinced by clownish movements like these. This is because many Arab states whose relations with the United States and European states have continued for decades did not need Israel's or anyone else's mediation. It is Israel which has been tirelessly seeking to lift the boycott and deal in Arab markets with concessions which could not even happen with the West. Thus al-Qadhdhafi's excuse is a failure in terms of reason and logic. But in terms of his interpretation of events and positions, it suits him in terms of thinking and mentality.

Al-Qadhdhafi knew—through logic—that he is now bankrupt at the Arab and Islamic level, before his bankruptcy at the international level. Thus, if the move toward Jerusalem was going to provoke a crisis and severe reactions, he tried foolishly and stupidly to involve the Kingdom in the problem—a kind of madness for which there are no takers on the propaganda market. However, when we analyze his dilemma with the average Arab, especially the Palestinian citizen, who is facing escalating fighting and liquidations in the occupied territories and at the diplomatic level facing an attempt to tighten the noose around his delegation to the peace talks, in addition to Israel's procrastinations, al-Qadhdhafi has provided an example of absolute capitulation, acknowledging Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem. This is because stamping Libyan passports with the Zionist state's stamp is a tacit endorsement of Libya's recognition of its control over Palestinian territory. And that on its own confirms that the al-Qadhdhafi example could be repeated once there are Arab leaders who have his characteristics—which is a crisis of conscience and reason before it is a crisis of ethics.

United Arab Emirates

PLO's 'Abbas, al-Husayni on Peace Talks, U.S. Visit

JN0506164593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1303 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jun (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmhud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has expressed his optimism about the peace negotiations. He said that the ninth round of negotiations led to some achievements, including the participation of Faysal al-Husayni and other Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in the negotiations.

In a statement to the Emirates news agency, 'Abbas explained that at the end of the second week of the ninth round of negotiations, two plans were reached, one Palestinian and the other Israeli. He noted that "it is true that there are differences between the two plans, but it is the first time that we make such an achievement."

In response to a question on how Israel will recognize the legitimate rights of Palestinian people in light of the current Arab weakness and Israel's belief that it is the indisputable force in the region, Abu-Mazin, who arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning leading a Palestinian delegation, stressed the need for Arab solidarity and a unified Arab position.

He indicated that signs of Arab solidarity have begun to appear, especially in light of the call of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, for solidarity. He indicated that this call has begun to yield fruit with regard to restoring Arab cohesion.

He expressed the belief that when Arab cohesiveness is restored while the negotiations continue, the Arab position will be able to impose something on the other side, especially since the entire world wants to extinguish the hotbeds of tension, of which the Middle East is considered the latest and the most important.

On the rumored differences among PLO leaders and among Palestinian negotiators, believed to have prompted Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to submit his resignation, Mahmud 'Abbas denied any differences among the Palestinian leaders. He affirmed that when a decision is made by an absolute majority, everyone—be he a member of the leadership or the delegation—abides by the instructions of the leadership despite any differences that may exist.

He explained that Shaykh al-Sa'ih's resignation has not yet been approved because it should be submitted to the PNC, which will make the appropriate decision. He said: "We hope that the health of Shaykh al-Sa'ih will improve and that he will be able to continue the march."

The PLO Executive Committee member stated that the PLO Central Council, which gathers every three or four months, will convene this month to review recent developments, assess policies and the rounds of negotiations, and adopt the decisions that it deems appropriate.

Asked why the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur have not been allowed to return home, especially in light of the return of 30 veteran Palestinian deportees, he said that the Palestinian leadership halted the peace negotiations at the ninth round because of the deportations. He said: "We are still demanding that they be enabled to return to their country and homes." He said demands are still being raised and meetings are still being held. He noted that Faysal al-Husayni is holding continuous contacts with the Americans and the Israelis so that the deportees would return as soon as possible.

Mahmud 'Abbas indicated that the agreement made between Faysal al-Husayni and the U.S. secretary of state on the deportees provide that deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, as well as other persons deported since 1967 be allowed to return.

In another development, Faysal al-Huayni said that he will soon head for Washington at the invitation of the United States to discuss some issues with U.S. officials, especially the Palestinian declaration of principles.

Al-Husayni said that the message that was sent to the United States contains some queries that need answers. He said that during his visit to Washington he will discuss the Palestinian paper in order to reach a declaration of principles at the 10th round of negotiations.

On his expectations for the 10th round and the failure of the ninth round, al-H sayni affirmed that the ninth round was not a failure, and that in one way or another it was considered the first round of negotiations, during which "the negotiating engagement began, working committees were formed, and things proceeded well."

Al-Husayni believes that like all negotiations, it is not necessary that the negotiations should start at a given round. However, he admitted, the recent cabinet crisis in Israel has cast its shadow on the negotiations, especially on the (?Israeli) position, something that resulted in the "fruitless conclusion of the ninth round of talks."

Al-Husayni on Gaza Autonomy

TA0506155793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni says that the Palestinians will agree to discuss the establishment of autonomy in Gaza first, on condition that this is a first stage of a comprehensive agreement with Israel, which would be acceptable to the Palestinians. Al-Husayni made these remarks at a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

Yemen

Parliament Speaker on Relations With Saudi Arabia

PM0706142693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Jun 93 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and chief of the Hashid tribes, by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ma'ruf] Why have you been elected speaker of parliament? Is it because you are a tribal chief and leader of the Reform Grouping, or because of your cordial relationship with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Ahmar] I won the speakership in free, impartial, and honest elections within the House of Representatives—that is, in a legitimate, normal, and democratic way.

[Ma'ruf] What is the status of relations with Saudi Arabia at present?

[Al-Ahmar] It is in the Kingdom's interests and our interests for relations to be strong, sincere, and developed, for cooperation to prevail between us, and for everything that has occurred in these relations since the Gulf crisis to disappear. This is because that is the natural thing and what we are seeking and working for. It is among our priorities, whether with regard to the Kingdom or the other Gulf states, to which we are bound by more ties than to any other Arab or Islamic country. Because in addition to the tie of Arabism and Islam, we are also bound to them by ties of neighborhood, and we share one peninsula.

[Ma'ruf] Do you think the Yemeni elections could adversely affect that relationship?

[Al-Ahmar] The Kingdom is a fraternal and friendly state. It has never interfered, nor will it ever interfere in the internal affairs of neighboring states. There are parties, elections, parliaments, and all other contemporary political matters in Jordan, Sudan, and Kuwait, but the Kingdom has never interfered in the internal affairs of these states.

[Ma'ruf] The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia was formed after the Yemeni election.

[Al-Ahmar] As I said, the Kingdom does not interfere in our affairs, nor does it accept that any neighboring country should interfere in its internal affairs.

[Ma'ruf] What did you discuss during your recent visit to Saudi Arabia (in Ramadan)?

[Al-Ahmar] I met with King Fahd and Prince Sultan. My relationship with them is still strong. I discussed with them all the issues that concern relations between the two countries, including the border problems. The border committee's upcoming meeting is a good sign.

[Ma'ruf] Are you happy with your share in the government?

[Al-Ahmar] We tried to persuade the president and the brothers in the Presidential Council to exempt us from participation in the government, but they insisted on our presence in it in order to eliminate the power sharing [between the two ruling parties] phenomenon that prevailed before the elections.

[Ma'ruf] Is your relationship with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the General People's Congress good?

[Al-Ahmar] The president is the leader of all, the leader of the parties and citizens. His standing among all is high and based on love and trust.

[Ma'ruf] And the Socialist Party?

[Al-Ahmar] The cooperation is for the sake of serving Yemen and its interests. We have no reservations as long as the cooperation is aimed at that. And there is a coalition document which we signed together with the Congress. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] Will the parties outside parliament form a front?

[Al-Ahmar] That is their right, because there can be no democracy without opposition. It is a healthy phenomenon, and we will not oppose it. In fact there could be cooperation between us and them, because there is trust between us. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] Will a plan be submitted to amend the Constitution amicably?

[Al-Ahmar] Either the three parties submit a joint formula for amendments or each party submits its plan. We hope there will be agreement.

[Ma'ruf] Even with regard to Article 3, which stipulates that Islam is the principal source of legislation, while the Reform Group demands that it be the only source?

[Al-Ahmar] Of course, the final version of Article 3 should reflect the people's wish and define and clarify what they want as a Muslim people who want nothing but for the shari'ah to prevail.

Al-Zubaydi Receives Letter From Algerian Prime Minister

JN0806095893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0903 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, has received a letter from Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam dealing with fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries.

The letter was delivered by Algeria's Ambassador al-Hashimi al-Qadduri when he called on al-Zubaydi here today.

The prime minister and the Algerian ambassador talked about bilateral relations and cooperation.

Paper Warns Against Egyptian Call For Mideast Market

JN0606110893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has assailed the policy pursued by the Egyptian regime with a view to normalizing ties with the Zionist entity.

In an article published today, the paper criticizes the call for establishing a Middle Eastern market made by Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali. In such a market, the paper notes, the Zionist entity would be given a principal and effective role in connecting and controlling the region's countries.

The paper indicates that the Egyptian agriculture minister has for a long time been promoting such an idea. Moreover, he concluded agreements with Zionist Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur with the aim of linking the Egyptian agricultural sector to the Zionist agricultural endeavor through the exchange of expertise and organizing visits to Zionist agricultural institutions and settlements for graduates of Egyptian agricultural institutes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say: The Egyptian regime is eager to proceed with the normalization of ties with the Zionist entity. Likewise, it is determined to play its role as a pawn manipulated by imperialism, which has assigned it the task of accomplishing specific missions in the region to the detriment of the Arab nation's aspirations and wishes.

The paper says that the Egyptian minister's call has been highlighted in view of the insolent statements repeatedly made by the foreign minister of the regime imposed on Kuwait—statements calling for abolishing the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity, and also for annulling the boycott imposed on the firms dealing with this entity.

In its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH accuses the Egyptian regime as well as the regime imposed on Kuwait of engaging in subversive acts within the institutions of joint Arab action. The two regimes, the paper contends, are also accused of deliberately and purposely wasting opportunities for development and progress.

The paper quotes news reports published in Cairo as saying that the launching of such a Middle East organization, which would comprise 70 Arab and Zionist experts, has become imminent. The paper affirms that the establishment of such a market and the inherent dangers it poses to the Arab nation will inevitably be opposed by the Arab masses, who have continued to cherish Arabism and who are determined to continue the struggle until the achievement of their higher objectives.

Note to UN Protests U.S. Aircraft 'Violations'

JN0806105293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations further violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

A protest note from Iraq's permanent UN delegate to Secretary General Butrus-Ghali listed 866 sorties between 24 May and 4 June.

The note provided details of these violations, and the Iraqi representative asked that it be circulated to UN member nations as a Security Council document.

Protest to Arab League

JN0706111793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the continued extension of facilities by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace.

In a letter to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative said these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace in the first days of June. The aircraft, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducted 224 aggressive sorties.

He enclosed a list detailing these violations to inform the league member states of these deplorable facts.

Decree Denies Home Visits to Convicted Thieves

JN0506190493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jun 93

["Text" of decree issued by the Presidency in Baghdad on 25 May]

[Text] The Republic Presidency.
Decree.
In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
The Republic of Iraq. The Presidency.
Decree No. [number indistinct]
Dated: 4 Dhi al-Hijjah 1413 hegira, corresponding to 25 May 1993

Decree:

In accordance with Paragraph (?C), Article 57 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

1. Those convicted of theft are denied the home visits stipulated in Article (?55) of the Social Reform Establishment Law No. 104 of 1980.
2. The concerned agencies shall implement this decree.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Peres Praises Kuwait for Lifting Boycott

TA0806094293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres welcomes Kuwait's announcement that it will lift the boycott on companies that trade with Israel. Peres calls on other Arab countries to follow Kuwait in rescinding what he termed the ugly and unjustified discrimination.

Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports that Peres, who will travel to Vienna next week, expressed his desire to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' there. Peres said that in the past there have been unsuccessful efforts to bring about such a meeting.

Says Saudi Arabia Next

TA0806113193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yo'el Nir, on leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on 8 June—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] I welcome the Kuwaiti announcement. I think the other Arab states must follow suit. The time has come for that to happen. Different excuses were provided each time. They linked it to the settlement policy, which has been changed in the meantime. We will continue to act in full swing among friendly states and the Arab states to annul that ugly and unjustified act of discrimination.

[Nir] Saudi Arabia, Peres added, is due to join Kuwait. In fact, the time has come for the Arab states to join the world of no economic borders, in which there is free trade, because those who introduce constraints and delays will be the first to be harmed by them. In reference to the famous pen, the missing one that is holding up the signing of an agreement with Jordan, Peres said.

[Peres] First, you have to read what you write, or what is quoted. I said that a pen is missing, but that Jordan has not signed because it does not want to be the first due to its fear of being isolated. That is, I referred not only to the lack of a pen, but also to the reason why there is no pen—because Jordan does not want to be first. What the prime minister said is also precisely that.

[Nir] Later, Peres said that he would be prepared to meet with the Syrian foreign minister during his upcoming visit to Vienna and that there have even been contacts with Syria, via other states, to hold meetings between Israelis and Syrians outside the negotiating framework, but the Syrians flatly rejected the idea. Peres added that the negotiations with the Syrians have come to a standstill because both sides have dug into the positions they declared in the negotiations.

[Peres] I believe that of the three possibilities: stopping the negotiations, continuing the negotiations, and concluding the negotiations, there is no doubt that the second—continuing the negotiations—is the best for Syria. It does not want to stop them because that would harm itself, and it does not want to conclude them because Syria thinks that it will gain more from protracted negotiations.

[Nir] But in the meantime, no progress is being made. It has been going on like that for months.

[Peres] That is correct. I hope there will be progress, but that does not depend solely on us.

[Nir] Do you believe that the moment the Israeli public is presented a concrete peace accord with the Syrians, the Golan Heights settlers will be able to spin like propellers?

[Peres] I am not sure I understood the question, but I will provide the answer I think is the correct one. If a peace accord is reached with Syria, I am convinced that the majority will support it.

Discusses Talks With Jordan, Syria

TA0806104093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 p 1

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hemi Shalev on 7 June; place not given]

[Text] [Shalev] Yesterday you said that we are on the verge of signing a peace agreement with Jordan, which caused a lot of excitement around the world. What did you mean?

[Peres] I referred to the agreement on the agenda, which is the outlined plan of peace. As a matter of fact, there are no longer real problems in dispute. All we have now are crumbs of problems that could be easily removed from the negotiating table. The main problem really is the decision to hold the pen. It is an essential, not a formal problem. There are no real disagreements between us.

[Shalev] Does this include the disputed territories in the Jordan Rift Valley?

[Peres] Principles have been set and they are accepted by both parties. Negotiations will naturally have to follow—but not on the principle.

[Shalev] Do you believe the Jordanians will be happy with your statement?

[Peres] My statement was preceded by an even more sweeping statement by (Jordanian Prime Minister) al-Majali. I was describing a situation. I did not go beyond the existing reality. I believe that this situation is worth describing because so much is being said about pessimism and that there is no way out. This had to be balanced out with reality, showing the situation as it is.

In fact, with two of the four partners, Lebanon and Jordan, we have no real problems. My declaration was sparked by the fact that I felt very encouraged by the last round of multinational talks. Unexpected progress was made there, which placed the concrete problems of peace on the agenda. For example, the two seas that Jordan and Israel share, the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, are essential to the economies of both countries. This must slowly be made clear.

Also, there have been positive reactions to what we said about a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. In fact, both parties accept this in principle. Hence, things had to be described just as they are.

[Shalev] You said "we said confederation," while so far only you have said it.

[Peres] The Labor Bureau has decided that—federation or confederation. The government has not yet adopted a stand regarding the permanent solution.

[Shalev] So far, we have had the impression that the idea of Gaza First is gathering momentum, here and among the Palestinians. Is this our current policy?

[Peres] This is not a policy. It is an option that is being very seriously considered.

[Shalev] When you say Gaza First, do you mean also expediting the negotiations on the permanent arrangement?

[Peres] Possibly, but without avoiding autonomy.

[Shalev] Last week you were quoted as opposing the closure.

[Peres] I wish to make things clear: I justify the closure for security reasons. I would not suggest that this become a concept for the future. If the closure prevents attacks by knife-wielding Palestinians, I am all for it. At the same time, if anyone wants to turn this into an ideology, meaning that there will be no economic contacts between us and the territories, I believe he will be making a mistake. This is foolish. After all, we are struggling against the Arab boycott. Do we need to build a wall to join the boycott?

[Shalev] Do you believe there are things that should be done to alleviate the economic distress in the territories?

[Peres] Like many other cabinet ministers, I believe that more funds should be invested in Judaea and Samaria because the troubling thing is the way the closure is reflected inside the territories. I would not like to create the impression that this is a form of collective punishment. This was never the purpose. I believe we should also occasionally examine the possibility of raising the quota of laborers who do not constitute a threat.

[Shalev] Regarding the U.S. role in the talks....

[Peres] I have a lot of appreciation for the U.S. role in the talks, but I value Israel's role even more. Just as we have never asked the Americans to protect us, we should not ask them to determine our policy for us. There is a lot of room for us to take political initiatives in the near future—in the bilateral as well as the multilateral talks. For example, there is the idea of "early empowerment" [yipuy koah muqdam], that is, handing over the authority over what has been agreed and handing over territories where there are no problems. Authorities First follows the same logic of Gaza First: Once a gap has been closed, implement it.

[Shalev] Your deputy, Yosi Beilin, said that talks would fail unless the Americans expand their involvement.

[Peres] He is entitled to his opinion. This is not some doctrine. I believe that the Americans are willing to be more involved, and I favor their involvement, but basically we must speed up the pace ourselves and get deeper into the picture.

[Shalev] With Syria as well?

[Peres] Regarding Syria, neither we nor the Americans will help. The sphinx was born in Egypt, but it lives in Damascus. Al-Asad indeed made a single step, which I highly appreciate, but he went back to his sphinx posture very fast. It is obvious that as far as the Syrians are concerned, they would rather negotiate stopping the negotiations. Naturally, the process cannot be stopped. Yet, at this stage, no one knows how long it will last.

Rabin on Autonomy, Peace Talks With Syria, Jordan

TA0706192093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir]

[Text] The prime minister's message to Labor's Knesset faction today was: We have to keep our eyes open to reality without euphoria, which has no place in the peace talks. Rabin did not hide the fact that he was mistaken when he thought that we would be able to sign an autonomy accord in six to nine months. Rabin reiterated: PLO-Tunis is torpedoing progress while facing deep internal differences. Even Faysal al-Husayni was kept under a kind of house arrest in Tunis.

In reference to the talks with Syria, he said that the Syrians are not discussing diplomatic relations with Israel and that we demand full peace only. Israel and the United States told Syria that without freedom of movement and normalization of relations between the two states, there can be no full peace. As long as we do not know how Syria views the nature of the peace, Israel will not deal with what it is prepared to exchange in terms of territory in the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabin does not aspire to raise the level of talks in Washington. He believes that we should not deal with procedure, and in general, he believes, that it is not an important enough issue on which to dwell.

Mr. Rabin also threw cold water on the possibility that Jordan and Israel will be the first to sign an accord and that they will do so in the near future. I suggest we wise up, the prime minister said in direct response to the remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night.

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] Mr. Prime Minister, the foreign minister said that the only thing needed to sign an accord with Jordan is a pen. Is that the case?

[Rabin] I do not deal with pens or pencils. I believe that the bilateral problems preventing peace with Jordan can be overcome. The problem is—as the Jordanians say in the Washington talks—that they cannot make peace before the issues between the Palestinians in the territories and us are resolved.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, you hinted at the time that there should be a meeting between yourself and al-Asad or that the level of negotiations should be raised. Have you investigated the possibility of a meeting with President al-Asad?

[Rabin] I said that it is hard for me to believe that we can reach the signing of a peace accord without a meeting between those who represent those states. I still believe that. To my regret, I cannot say that will happen soon. [end recording]

'Secret Contacts' Coordinate Peres-al-Shar' Meeting

TA0806051993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin, 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in Jerusalem do not rule out the possibility that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will confer next week with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The two are to attend a UN conference on human rights in Vienna and will be staying at the same hotel. According to political sources, secret contacts have been held recently to coordinate the meeting.

It may well be that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark yesterday about the need to raise the talks with Syria to a ministerial level were made in reference to the Peres-al-Shar' meeting. If the meeting takes place, it will bring about a dramatic change in the atmosphere between the two countries and pave the way to a meeting between Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Speaking on Israeli Television last night, Rabin said: "It is hard for me to believe that we can reach the signing of a peace accord without a meeting between those who represent those states. I still believe that. To my regret, I cannot say that will happen soon."

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday made clear that after Israel and the Palestinians sum up the document of principles regarding the interim arrangement, Jordan will ratify the memorandum of agreement the delegations of both parties drafted in Washington several months ago. According to the sources, an agreement on borders and water issues can easily be reached because both countries have gone a long way in terms of normalization. The steps they have taken include opening branches of Jordanian banks in the territories and exporting goods from Jordan to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Envoy Optimistic About Bilateral Talks

TA0706175493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] At President 'Ezer Weizman's first reception for the diplomatic corps, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was optimistic about the prospects for the bilateral talks. In his view, a declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestinians would this time be achieved.

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] I do believe the next round will be a successful one. I do believe that in 1993 we will reach at least a joint declaration of principles with the Syrians, with the Lebanese, and an agenda with Jordan, and also with the Palestinians. I just would like to say that really there is progress. Really, it is not enough, but as a matter of fact, there is progress, and we will reach this joint declaration of principles as soon as possible.

[Reporter Ja'k Katzenell] In the previous round, the expulsion of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to Lebanon presented a problem. Do you think that the arrest of 124 Hamas activists and terrorist suspects in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem will be a problem in this round?

[Basyuni] I would like to tell you frankly, the most important thing to reach is a goal. What is the goal? It is to achieve agreements. When we reach these agreements, it will not be deportations or detainees, or nothing. Let us go quickly to achieve the goal, to achieve the comprehensive peace, and in that time it will not be deportations or detainees or nothing. Let us go quickly to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict from all its aspects. [end recording]

Rabin Considers Rapprochement With Austria Possible

AU0706205593 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ben Segenreich in Tel Aviv; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Announcer] Just before Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's visit to Israel, Ben Segenreich asked Minister President Rabin for an interview. A year ago, Rabin predicted a speedy breakthrough in the Middle East peace process, which did not come about.

[Rabin] I was too hopeful because I believed that the changes in the peace policy that I brought about were

significant. However, I did not get the response that I expected for my readiness to compromise. Nevertheless, I believe that neither of the two sides can turn back on the road to peace.

[Segenreich] Which role could European countries, such as Austria, play in the peace process?

[Rabin] The European countries have been invited to participate in multilateral negotiations. The purpose of the multilateral negotiations is to create understanding in the Arab states, the Muslim states, and in Israel for what peace can bring to this region. If the EC, for example, decides to support the Palestinians with $70 to $80 million a year in their infrastructure, education, health care, joint economic projects, etc., then we will be more than happy. The Europeans can also deliver a message to the minds and hearts of the Arabs that they will not join the Arab boycott, which is some kind of war against Israel.

[Segenreich] What do you think about Austria's sudden opening up toward Israel?

[Rabin] All the communist countries have ecognized Israel. China has diplomatic relations with us and so does India. We live in an entirely different world. There was an obstacle—it was in Austria. I do not want to expressly cite it. I think rapprochement is possible today, and, therefore, the chancellor will be welcome in Israel.

Of course, we have—perhaps less than toward Germany—certain feelings toward Austria about the past, which we will not forget. Just like Germany had to compensate the Jewish people, if anyone can actually speak of compensation, Austria—as a people and a state—should accept responsibility for participating in what was done to the Jews in the dark time. However, at the same time, we must look at the present and the future and try to create new realities and prevent what happened in the past.

Peres Views Relations With Austria, Peace

AU0706191293 Vienna PROFIL in German 7 Jun 93 p 54

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Tessa Szyszkowitz in Jerusalem; date not given: "Austrian Theater"]

[Text] [Szyszkowitz] Will Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's visit to Israel improve bilateral relations?

[Peres] Yes, this is a very important visit. During Waldheim's presidency, Austria was not present on the international stage. We are now seeing the comeback of Austria, of an important European country. It has good contacts with the Arabs and Israel. These contacts may be useful again. In addition, Vranitzky also advocates cultural exchange. He brought Austrian theater, art, and literature here, and I welcome that. It is also the first state visit since the Kreisky crisis.

[Szyszkowitz] Did you have more problems with Bruno Kreisky than with Kurt Waldheim?

[Peres] Kreisky had very pronounced views. Sometimes this was positive, particularly as far as our relations with Egypt were concerned. He helped a great deal with his contacts. However, I ask myself what role he played in the PLO. He was prejudiced and was very committed to its cause.

[Szyszkowitz] Have the Austrians changed since Kreisky and Waldheim left the stage and Vranitzky entered it?

[Peres] Yes, they have. Sometimes people change the times, but sometimes the times change people, too. Even if anti-Semitic feelings exist, how can they be preserved if there are no longer any Jews in Austria?

[Szyszkowitz] The anti-Semites do not seem to need any Jews to hate them.

[Peres] This is the problem of the anti-Semites, not ours. As President Bush said, we are living in a new world order. The ideology that only white men are capable of progress is slowly disappearing. Just look what is happening in Japan, China, India, and Latin America. The old presumption "Europe above all, whites above all" is vanishing.

[Szyszkowitz] People are being killed in Germany because they are not German....

[Peres] Yet things are different from the past. Rather, the present incidents threaten German society itself. The time when the Germans threatened the world belongs to the past.

[Szyszkowitz] Does your optimism also apply to the peace process in the Middle East?

[Peres] Yes. We need a new vision for the Middle East. We should not only deal with the borders but the problems that are much more serious, including ecological damage and the scarcity of water. We will have to listen to the people to a greater extent. The leaders have lost contact with the people. They should not constantly be concerned about the latest opinion polls but take risks and make use of opportunities.

[Szyszkowitz] What risks?

[Peres] The negotiators are afraid of losing popularity because it is naturally not popular to make concessions. Yet it is not possible to achieve results without concessions. Who praises compromises? Only war heroes are being cheered.

[Szyszkowitz] Would you like to see more radicalism at the negotiating table?

[Peres] I would like to see more readiness to make decisions. One simply cannot blame others all the time if talks are deadlocked. Both we and the others must do something.

[Szyszkowitz] Should the Israelis start and give up the Gaza Strip?

[Peres] I believe that we are paying too much attention to the price of peace and not to what it should be like. If you want to buy a dress in a shop, you first look at the dress and then at the price.

[Szyszkowitz] Somehow both sides must achieve specific results.

[Peres] What is better suited to guarantee peace in the Middle East: an increasing number of weapons or developed tourism? I believe that tourism is. It creates interests, needs, and links.

[Szyszkowitz] The most recent example of tourism, however, did not end well. The 192 Libyan pilgrims who came to Jerusalem last week at Israel's invitation took the opportunity to call for Jerusalem's liberation during a news conference.

[Peres] Yet, at least they were here. As recently as one year ago, Libyans would not even have come to Israel.

[Szyszkowitz] In his new book "Operation Shylock," Philip Roth presents a figure who calls for a return of the Jews to Europe. He demands Israel's dissolution and calls for a new diaspora. The grief about the fact that the Jews are becoming a normal people with the abuse of power, human rights violations, and corruption in their state is apparently behind this provocation. Do you understand that?

[Peres] A poem reads: "We are all living in exile from ourselves." I share this view. There is no way back to Europe for us. However, Roth is right in claiming that it is wrong of us to suppress another people. For this reason, we should find a solution as soon as possible.

Rabin, Economists Comment on Aims of Loan Guarantees

TA0806052293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says that the U.S. loan guarantees should be used for increasing investment in infrastructure, even in areas in which it is clear that consumption will grow. The Bank of Israel governor claims, on the other hand, that these funds must not be used for increasing consumption. He claims that to date not enough funds have been used for immigration absorption. The Treasury Budget Department director believes that all the loan guarantees are needed for developing communications and electricity systems as well as roads. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that these remarks came at a conference in Tel Aviv on the issue of the loan guarantees.

Rabin Praises U.S.; Meretz Wants Settlement Freeze

TA0806043893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the fact that two U.S. presidents, George Bush and Bill Clinton, both promised Israel support in the form of loan guarantees is proof of the fact that above and beyond economic aid, the United States is a supporter of Israel in the strongest sense of the word. Rabin was speaking at a conference in Tel Aviv on the issue of the loan guarantees and their influence on Israel's economic and political institutions.

Meanwhile the Meretz bloc has decided to instruct its ministers in the government to, in its words, work toward the success of the next round of peace negotiations by pushing for an Israeli declaration of a total freeze of all building in the territories.

Unit To Supervise Settlement Activity Established

TA0806061193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 p A3

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Text] Personnel in the Prime Minister's Office have started to establish a special unit to supervise building in the settlements. This unit will operate within the framework of the Civil Administration in the territories and will be independent of the supervising unit that is active in the Arab villages.

Eytan Haber, the director of the prime minister's bureau, told HA'ARETZ that the establishment of this unit was decided upon in the wake of the commitment made to the United States. Its aim is "to see who is building where" in order to enforce government decisions in the sphere of building activity in the settlements. The supervising unit will work in the field in conjunction with the committee dealing with exceptional cases, headed by Nahum Kinarti of the Defense Ministry.

The information on the establishment of the unit was included in a letter sent by Haber to Peace Now in reaction to Professor 'Amiram Goldblum's appeal to Prime Minister Rabin. Goldblum claimed that the findings of Peace Now's follow-up team indicate that "the building activity in the settlements continues, even by deceitful means."

New Group Seeks To Establish Jewish Autonomy

TA0706124693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 93 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] A new body calling itself the "Movement for Jewish Autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza" declares that it will resist IDF [Israel Defense Forces]

soldiers with force, including firearms, if an attempt is made to evacuate the Jewish population or settlements from the territories. "Soldiers who try to move Jews from their homes in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will encounter mine fields, literally and figuratively," the movement's statement says.

Movement activists with whom the HA'ARETZ correspondent has met refused to be identified by name and made the meeting conditional on a promise of total confidentiality. (The names were withheld by the editorial board at their request.)

In recent weeks, they disseminated throughout the settlements a detailed circular explaining the essence of "the autonomous Jewish entity" they would like to establish "as the state continues divesting itself of its assets." So far the new body, which has a distinctly religious platform, has enlisted hundreds of activists.

Its first public announcement states that the movement has been active for several months and that it has several hundred members, mostly inhabitants of the territories, including lawyers, school principals, scientists, military officers, and social workers.

The statement specifies the movement's objectives: preventing the territories' delivery to foreign rule and establishing an autonomous Jewish entity in the occupied territories. Rabin's government "is perceived by the movement as an illegitimate government that seeks to achieve objectives that are prohibited and contrary to Jewish and Zionist interests.

"With the signing of the document delivering or arranging the delivery of parts of western Eretz Yisra'el to an alien rule, the State of Israel itself will become an alien country in these territories, and the IDF will become an occupation army. In the spirit of the Hagana, Etzel, and Lehi [pre-state underground movements], the alien occupation army has to be resisted and fought so as to drive it from the country. The movement urges IDF soldiers to consider in advance the significance of obviously illegal orders, to decide whether they intend to take orders from illegitimate political echelons, and mainly to remember that there will not be another Yamit [a forcibly evacuated settlement in the Sinai]."

The circular, which the movement distributed in settlements, compares the present Israeli Government with that of Vichy, which collaborated with the Nazis after the occupation of France. Petain's post-war trial and conviction for treason is mentioned, "because a government of treason is not a legitimate government, neither in hindsight nor especially at the beginning of the process."

The circular reviews the alternatives for the Jewish population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the present conditions. The first alternative: The IDF will withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and be confined to a few bases. An Arab police force, whose designated senior officers have recently started training in Jordan, will take over the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza areas. IDF troops, equipped with unrealistic open-fire instructions, will be limited both in time and place.

The second alternative: "The Jewish population will sell its houses and lifestyle, at a loss at best, and emigrate to the other side of the Green Line—the overcrowded 'Israeli' region within range of 'Arafat's artillery.

"Because your lives are not worth a penny—to Clinton, the gentile; to al-Husayni, the enemy; or to Rabin, the traitor—you will be abandoned. It is as simple as that. The world and Israeli public opinion will not protest. On the contrary, it will hold you directly responsible for spilled Jewish blood. Just as Hayim Bar-Lev said 13 years ago, when Jews were murdered in Hadassah House in Hebron: 'If they were not there, they would not have been hurt.'"

The circular states that "despite its numerous achievements, the State of Israel is an internal failure. The Israeli judicial infrastructure is alien, set on foundations borrowed from the judicial systems of the gentiles. Jewish education is a national disaster. The health system has been stumbling for years; and the state's economy has long been strangled by red tape."

The Jewish autonomous entity will, on the other hand, be based on Jewish principles in every aspect of life. Jewish law will serve as the basis for both a constitution, which will restrict the powers of the leadership, and for a modern legislative system with a clearly Jewish nature. The document also details the principles of the Jewish spirit in the management of the health, economic, and defense systems.

"The solution, therefore," the document concludes, "is to disobey both the Israeli system and the Arab autonomous system—there is only the Jewish autonomous entity."

The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that this initiative is similar in essence to the Judaean state plan that the Kakh Movement issued several years ago and that faded away with the murder of Kahana. This time, the initiative does not focus in Kakh circles only. It is more widespread. The significant change is the call on the public and the declaration that guns will be used against IDF soldiers in case of a withdrawal.

Chief of Staff Baraq on Visit to Thailand, Far East

TA0806042993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, yesterday left for an official visit to Thailand, where he will be the guest of the Thai chief of staff. Baraq's visit to the Far East will last approximately 10 days. Major General Amnon Shahaq will serve as acting chief of staff during Baraq's absence.

Intelligence Branch Head on Far East Weapons Threat

TA0806071793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] China has already supplied research nuclear reactors to the Middle East. This was said by Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch. Maj. Gen. Sagi said that this necessitates close monitoring by Israeli intelligence, because the potential sale of nuclear weapons to Arab states from the Far East poses a very great danger. Our military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] The threat of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and the ways of foiling it is one of the main issues under the constant scrutiny of intelligence elements in Israel and abroad. Maj. Gen. Sagi warns of the danger inherent in the infiltration of know-how as well as conventional and nuclear weapons from the Far East to our region. He said that North Korea is a country with an independent policy of aggressive weapons marketing:

[Sagi] To date North Korea has considered itself unfettered by the West's policy. The Scud-C missiles come from there; they also supply the No Dong missiles to Iran. I think that this poses a great potential danger, and we will have to monitor this situation very carefully. You mentioned two important points; the most alarming issue, however, is that of the Far East countries.

[Semrik] Referring to the developing Chinese power, Maj. Gen. Sagi said it has curtailed the supply of surface-to-surface missiles to the Middle East in the wake of the U.S. appeal in this issue:

[Sagi] China is selling other kinds of weapons. It is also selling research nuclear reactors to our region. It has an independent policy concerning this issue. China is sufficiently sensitive, however, to international or Western public opinion, and I believe that the United States is able to moderate Chinese policy in these spheres somewhat.

[Semrik] Regarding the splinters of the former USSR—Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, Sagi says they have so far evinced a responsible policy in terms of preserving the nuclear know-how and weapons in their possession.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 June adds: "Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF Intelligence Branch, assesses that even after the uncovering of the terror squads, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will continue its attacks against Israel. Sagi says that this organization is extensive and strong enough to continue its acts of terrorism. Sagi also said that the terrorists, including Hamas, have an organizational, political, and operational infrastructure abroad."]

Air Force Orders System To Analyze Dogfights

TA0706162693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 7 Jun 93 p 10

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Excerpt] The Air Force has ordered from Rada Electronics Industries of Bet She'an a system for analyzing dogfights. The system is also being studied by several European air forces, and an export deal is expected in the near future.

Fighter-training aircraft currently have equipment that signals the "battle" data to a ground station. That system restricts the training practice to a certain area. The Air Force decided to equip its fighter planes with an automatic system, that is, one which records all the flight and battle data and permits its presentation to pilots after the plane lands. Using this system, the aircraft can train over any area without a connection to any ground equipment, as well as over the sea. [passage omitted]

'Arafat in Amman for Talks on Middle East Peace Process

JN0706194093 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Jun 93

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight for talks on the Middle East peace process. He was welcomed by the minister of state for cabinet affairs and the minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr. 'Arafat told the "News at Ten" that the Palestinians wanted to see a more active American role in the Arab Israeli peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Maha al-Sha'ir] President 'Arafat, we want to ask you: Yesterday, the four Arab foreign ministers decided that they want to see a more American active role and some of the Palestinian delegation are supposed to meet with the American officials within two days, three days. Can you tell us what are the demands, what are the things that you'd like them to discuss with the American Administration?

['Arafat] As I have mentioned just before that we had already sent a very important message of 10 points from Jerusalem to Mr. Warren Christopher concerning all the issues and the points which we are looking about, and especially the American Administration are now playing an active and complete partner. But, they have to remember that also the Palestinians are complete partner too in this peace process. As you know that nothing had been achieved concrete, in a concrete substance, within the Palestinian track till now. In the same time, escalation of violence, escalation of oppression, escalation of iron-fist policy against our people...[sentence incomplete as heard] [end recording]

Received by King, Makes Statement

JN0706204293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. They reviewed several issues pertaining to the peace process. The meeting was attended by officials from both sides. President 'Arafat arrived in Amman this evening on a brief working visit to Jordan in order to make an assessment of present and future prospects of the peace process in light of current developments. He was received by Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman. 'Arafat made a statement to our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Mr. President, your visit to Jordan comes after the coordination meeting and before his majesty's visit to Washington. How important is this visit, and do you demand anything from the American partner?

['Arafat] The visit is important in light of the current important circumstances facing the Arab nation in general and the Palestine question in particular. As you know, the peace process has not achieved anything on the Palestinian track. This should prompt the two sponsors of the conference, particularly the American sponsor, to force the Israeli side to respect the terms of reference represented by the bases, principles, and rules on which this march has been founded since the Madrid conference. These terms of reference are originally based on President Bush's initiative calling for the exchange of land for peace and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which mean withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem and the legitimate Palestinian political rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international legitimacy and security for everyone. All this urges us, as our brothers and delegates to the foreign ministers' conference yesterday, to reassess the overall peace process. This will place great responsibilities on his majesty the king when he goes to the United Nations [as heard]. May God help him face all these events because his majesty's responsibility is great. We also hope he will succeed in his efforts when he holds talks with President Clinton and other U.S. officials. [end recording]

Further on Meeting With King

JN0806055493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation at the Raghadan Palace last night.

The Jordanian side under His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian side under His Excellency President 'Arafat held a round of talks during which they reviewed the Middle East peace process and its prospects and what needs to be done by the parties involved to activate the peace process and push it toward its aspired objective, represented by the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace for the region's peoples. They also affirmed the continuation of the distinguished Palestinian-Jordanian relations. They reviewed regional affairs and the Arab position on them. Discussions also dealt with the kinfolk's suffering and painful situation in the occupied Arab territories.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that ours is a strong and just cause, and that it is drawing growing understanding and sympathy from world countries and peoples. He stressed that this cause must overcome the major challenges facing it. His majesty also affirmed: We are seeking the restoration of all rights to their owners and the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace that will be maintained by the current and future generations.

Taking part in the talks on the Jordanian side were Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military adviser to his majesty the king; His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, his majesty the king's adviser for Islamic affairs; Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, information minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs; Talal al- Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, head of royal protocol. Taking part in the talks on the Palestinian side were PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Shafiq al-Hut, Yasir 'Amr, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi. Also taking part in the talks were Dr. Haydar 'Abdl-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Hashemite Court.

His Majesty King Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President 'Arafat. It was attended by the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations.

Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman last night on a brief working visit to Jordan.

Al-Hasan Reviews Results of Amman Meeting

JN0706190993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the Arab coordination meeting met in Amman to coordinate stands of the Arab parties participating in the peace process and come up with a unified position regarding the various issues related to this process. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, al-Hasan added that, during the meeting, the conferees reviewed the peace process in general and the ninth round in particular.

Al-Hasan said: The conferees also discussed the coordination and solidarity required from the Arab parties in the current stage. They underscored the constants and principles which govern our stand vis-a-vis the peace process and which call for implementing the resolutions of the international legitimacy in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the conferees reiterated the focal importance of the Palestine question because it represents the essence of conflict in the Middle East.

Al-Hasan added that the head and members of the Palestinian delegation briefed the meeting on the latest developments in the occupied Arab territory.

With regard to the invitation to participate in the next round, the minister said: The ministers discussed the invitation and issued a positive decision to participate in it. He added: They also decided to intensify the contacts with the cosponsors of the peace process before talks reconvene.

Information Minister on Government's Peace Stand

JN0706185193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar has stated the following: Recently, there have been increasing statements, comments, and interpretations about the Jordanian Government's stand toward the peace negotiations. These divergent views were made in light of the new cabinet formation and the distribution of ministerial portfolios.

The Jordanian Government believes in a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace which restores full rights to legitimate owners as stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions. These resolutions constitute the terms of reference of the negotiating process. Jordan seeks peace and has demonstrated this time and time again. However, as it seeks peace, Jordan will not relinquish a single right or an inch of soil. It believes in joint action with its Arab brothers and in the need to maintain contacts and coordination with them and to follow united and firm steps in order to reach an honorable and just peace that is acceptable to future generations and forms the basis for achieving lofty objectives for our country and Arab nation.

Therefore, Jordan categorically rejects separate solutions. It considers exerted attempts and claims by some circles here and there that Jordan will sign a separate peace agreement with Israel to be aimed at driving a wedge in the Arab ranks. Jordan has continuously warned against such attempts and claims and explained that they totally contradict Jordan's policy, objectives, and solid principles that a peaceful solution be comprehensive and apply to all fronts and all negotiable topics which constitute inalienable rights that can never be abandoned. The Jordanian Government believes the Palestinian issue is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Without a just and honorable solution to this issue, peace would be void of any meaningful substance.

According to Jordan's firm principles on this matter, the foundations of which were laid down and underlined by His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan will fully continue this support until the Palestinian Arab people regain their full political and legal rights on their national soil—on which they lived and which was mixed with the blood and sweat of their ancestors for thousands of years. The Palestinian Arab people will have the final say on this issue. Jordan is providing them with all the aid and assistance it can until they achieve self-determination and the restoration of their full rights on their national soil. Jordan will do its best within this framework to coordinate with the Palestinian brothers, support their just cause, and highlight their independent identity.

Jordan seeks the restoration of its full rights in its territories and waters and the return of refugees and evacuees in accordance with international law and in order to protect its citizens, land, and nation from aggression. Jordan believes that peaceful and fair negotiations are the approach to restore these rights. After nine rounds, Jordan arrived at an agenda. However, there are some semantic problems that still have to be discussed. The agenda and its phrasing have consolidated basic principles—such as territory, refugees, and water—to which Jordan adheres and are considered progress in the negotiations. However, this accomplishment represents only a beginning for the substantive negotiating process. There are still many basic issues that require time, effort, and follow up. It is difficult to resolve these Jordanian issues objectively without Arab coordination and a comprehensive solution to all issues on all fronts.

This is Jordan's firm stand to which the government adheres and exerts its utmost to achieve.

King To Discuss Iraq's Partition During U.S. Trip

PM0806101493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 93 p 1

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "King Husayn To Raise With Clinton Danger of Perpetuating Iraq's Partition"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Informed Jordanian sources emphasized yesterday that the situation in Iraq and its political and economic effects on the region will be among the most important points which King Husayn of Jordan will raise at his meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington on 18 June.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that King Husayn will brief the U.S. President on the danger of perpetuating Iraq's partition into three regions (north, south, and center) and the effects of this partition on the strategic balance, which has suffered major disruptions since the Iraqi military power was hit and the reinforcement of Iran's position in the Gulf region.

The sources pointed out that the Jordanian monarch will explain to the U.S. Administration the nature of the economic pressures to which Jordan is being exposed as a result of the continuation of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq, in addition to the pressures being exerted by the IMF in the framework of the terms set for restructuring the Jordanian economy and paying the foreign debts owed to the Western governments and creditor banks.

The sources expect the king to seek the U.S. Administration's assistance in easing conditions for rescheduling Jordanian debts owed to international lenders and its mediation to improve Jordanian relations with some Arab states. [passage omitted]

Political circles expect the appointment of a new government headed by al-Majali, who was head of the Jordanian negotiating delegation, to have a positive effect on King Husayn's talks in Washington, as it reflects Jordan's commitment to the peace process and its willingness to defend it. [passage omitted]

Two More Ships Barred From al-'Aqabah Port

JN0606112493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Two vessels carrying cargo for the Jordanian market were ordered away from docking at al-'Aqabah Saturday by the enforcers of the international sanctions against Iraq, shipping sources said.

The sources said Romanian Hanuzo, carrying 1,000 tonnes of general cargo—mainly drilling equipment—and the Lok Kriti, which was ferrying 500 tonnes of timber from the Far East to Jordan, were told that their cargo was not accessible for permission.

The vessels were intercepted at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba by the U.S.-led naval fleet patrolling the Red Sea in what appeared to be a further tightening of the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"The Lok Kriti was carrying more than 22,000 tonnes of cargo for Europe, and its option now is to make an unscheduled call at any Red Sea port to unload the Jordan-bound timber," said one source.

"Or it could sail on towards Europe. In any case the timber has to be unloaded somewhere for transhipment at the expense of the importer," noted the source.

The Hanuzo was sailing towards Port Sa'id to unload its cargo of drilling equipment before returning to al-'Aqabah, the source said. Again the importer has to bear the additional cost of shipping the equipment from Port Sudan to al-'Aqabah, the source pointed out.

"Whatever the case, it now appears that the sanction enforcers are getting more and more overzealous, and we Jordanians are paying the price for it," the source said.

"Dozens of ships are carrying Iraq-bound cargo to Iranian ports in the Gulf and Turkish ports in the Mediterranean, and there is no inspection of the vessels, according to the source. "It looks as if the sanction enforcement is only applicable to Jordan and Jordan-bound cargo."

A ship carrying wheat for Iraq has docked at al-'Aqabah after a five-day at Jeddah ordered by its owners and is now unloading the cargo at the port, shipping officials said Saturday. [sentence as published]

The 55,000 tonnes of Australian wheat aboard the Dutch-flag Continental Spirit is expected to be completely unloaded by the end of this week, said the ship's agents, T. Gargour and Fils.

The vessel, owned by a U.S.-based company and chartered by a London-based firm, was due to dock at al-'Aqabah on May 24, but was ordered to stay at Jeddah by its managers.

While such delays are routine in the shipping business, the fact that the vessel was carrying Iraq-bound wheat had drawn attention.

Gargour & Fils could not or would not say why the owners ordered the ship delayed at Jeddah. But other shipping sources said disputes between the owner and the charter or between the shipper—the Australian Wheat Board—and the importer—the Iraqi government—could have been behind the delay.

Another shipping source, however, suggested that politics were involved. "The Saudi-American owners of the vessel may not have been aware that their ship was carrying Iraq-bound cargo," said the source.

But such a dispute, had it been permitted to fester, would have resulted in huge losses for all parties concerned, the source noted, "and hence the belated clearance to proceed to al-'Aqabah."

The wheat shipment is part of a $150 million, one-million tonne contract signed between the Australian Wheat Board and the Iraqi government.

Diplomatic sources said some problems related to terms and methods of payment for the deal were resolved early this year.

Al-Majali Denies Agreement on Exports to Territories

JN0606091093 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 5-11 Jun 93 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman "at the end of his first day as prime minister"]

[Excerpt] [SHIHAN] There are press reports that Jordan has sold some of its Air Force planes. How true are these reports?

[Al-Majali] The truth is that I have no information about this topic.

[SHIHAN] Israeli media report that the Jordanian and Israeli delegations have agreed to allow Jordan to send Jordanian goods to the West Bank and Gaza. How true are these reports?

[Al-Majali] There is no agreement on this issue. The truth is that during the ninth round, the Israeli delegation suggested that we allow our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza to import Jordanian goods under the pretext that Israel wants to help them economically. We told them we would carefully study all aspects of their proposal before we reply. We will also discuss this proposal with the Palestinian command.

[SHIHAN] Will your government discuss the amendment of the elections law?

[Al-Majali] The government has not yet discussed this issue. However, I would like to affirm that the government is open to all options on condition that they serve the homeland and the citizen.

[SHIHAN] It is well known that you support the amendment of this law.

[Al-Majali] The issue has nothing to do with personal opinions. It is an issue of national responsibility that transcends the individual. We are willing to tackle all options within the context of their serving the homeland. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Says No Tangible Results Yet From Peace Talks

LD0806105393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On the eve of the 10th round of talks between Arabs and Israelis, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' announced that talks between Arabs and Israelis have not yet brought any tangible results for the Arabs and that the outcome of the talks will be termed as positive only when Israel withdraws from the occupied territories.

Faruq al-Shar' said: Arab and Islamic countries are currently facing different kinds of international conspiracies and it is only through unity that these conspiracies can be confronted.

Regarding the dialogue between some Arab countries and Israel, the Syrian foreign minister said: These dialogues will not be in the interest of Arabs and they are a plot on the part of Israel.

Faruq al-Shar' said: In recent talks with Jordanian officials, they were also convinced that they should not have any kind of dialogue whatsoever with Israel.

Faruq al-Shar' then emphasized that Syria will not compromise over the occupied territories with the Tel Aviv regime. He said: The conditions for the return of the Golan Heights to Syria should be based on the resolutions of the Security Council.

In connection with developments in Egypt and Algeria, Faruq al-Shar' said: The internal developments of these two countries is a domestic concern and Syria has no particular position on this matter.

Arab Moves Toward Israel, U.S. 'Pressure' Criticized

JN0806103693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has criticized attempts by some Arabs to move toward Israel in expectation of regional gains and international interests which would strengthen their existence and end their domestic troubles, thus believing the Zionist and Western (?allegation) that peace has been achieved in the region.

In an editorial by Chief Editor Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi, the paper says that violating the pan-Arab consensus provides neither impregnability nor protection, but turns into disasters and tragedies involving all Arabs. The paper refers to the current process of shifting the meaning of U.S. partnership in the peace process to mean partnership with Israel only. The paper says that instead of implementing its commitments as a superpower toward peace and forcing Israel to implement UN Security Council resolutions, the United States has been noticed to be applying actual pressure on some Arab parties to make them violate the Arab consensus and break the Arab boycott. Consequently, they would be urged to end the state of war with Israel and reach a separate reconciliation with it irrespective of the developments of the current political battle on the negotiating front.

The paper adds that neither Israel nor the United States itself gives anything without expecting something in return. The paper explains that Zionist miserliness is well known in history. Meanwhile, Washington does not pay a single dollar without ensuring it will get $100 in return.

The paper continues: History teaches us that Israel does not fear the weak, and offers them nothing. Therefore, no Arab stands to gain if he abandons the Arab fold. This affirms that Arab solidarity and coordination are now needed more than ever before.

The paper cautions the Arabs against entertaining false hope that international legitimacy alone will restore their rights to them, or that the Labor-Israel is much different from the Likud-Israel. This is because the Zionist strategy, which is based on the principles of aggression, expansion, and occupation, continues to constitute the prevailing official ideology in Israel. Evidence of this is the Rabin government's failure to advance even one step toward a just, lasting peace.

Concluding its article, TISHRIN asks: Why are the Arabs alone asked to make a move? Why are they asked to take confidence-building measures at a time when Israel continues to swallow Arab land and actually lay down plans for the establishment of the so-called Greater Israel? Why are the Arabs forced to remove their weapons at a time when new types of weapons of mass destruction and internationally banned weapons are daily added to the Israeli military arsenal?

Afghanistan

Ministry Denies Interference in Tajik Affairs

LD0706163093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul on 6 June]

[Text] Information given by the press attache of the Russian Federation in Washington to a VOA correspondent on 3 June reported in detail that three Russian soldiers were killed on 30 May in a border area of Tajikistan in a [word indistinct] and grenade attack from across the Afghan border. After obtaining authentic information from competent sources, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan announces: On the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence and observing standards of Islamic brotherhood, no provocative and unfriendly act has been undertaken by the competent authorities and officials of the Islamic State along Afghanistan's border with Tajikistan directed against the national sovereignty and border security of the Republic of Tajikistan, not only in recent weeks but since the rising of the sun of the Islamic revolution and the installation of the new regime.

On the basis of international [word indistinct] rules, observing national [word indistinct] policy, and with full respect for mutual noninterference in internal affairs, and following the UN Charter, as has repeatedly been reflected in the official declarations and notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Afghan side has never interfered in the internal affairs of others, especially of Tajikistan, and will in the future also follow this policy which guarantees peace and security in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic state is of the opinion that the issue of Tajik refugees is an internal problem of Tajikistan, and that the Afghan side, acting within its capabilities and taking into account common cultural values and historical background, only gives them humanitarian aid, without any political intention, and assists them and cooperates with them in their matters of daily life. However, it catagorically rejects any allegation about interference in Tajikistan and about military training and arming of Tajik refugees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic state repeats its interest and good wishes for resolving problems related to Tajik refugees and for the removal of all misunderstandings.

* Editor Discusses Nature of 'Afghan Arabs'

93WR0258Z London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 93 p 17

[Article by Muhammad al-Rumayhi, editor of AL-'ARABI: "The Afghani Arabs: Mercenaries or Victims?"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] The phenomenon of the "Afghani Arabs" is causing anxiety. It is feared that they will become mercenaries reminiscent, God forbid, of combatants from Third World or advanced countries, who pursue material gains, whereas the "Afghani Arabs" are advancing moral goals.

After they finished "expelling" the Soviets from Afghanistan, the "Afghani Arabs" returned to their native Arab countries to continue their struggle against their families and relatives. Some of them have also gone in search of places distant from their homelands in which to ignite civil war and help "lift the oppression" from other peoples.

Egyptians, Algerians, and citizens of the Gulf states are among the numerous Arab nationalities complaining about the behavior of the "Afghani Arabs." Some "Afghani Arabs" are engaged in a virtual civil war, as in Egypt and Algeria, while others are engaged in ideological battles elsewhere in the Arab world.

The entire problem is extremely sensitive and complicated.

The Afghanistan problem is one of the most important problems that dominated the last days of the cold war, during the eighties to be exact. It began when a Soviet force, with all of its vigor at the time, attacked and occupied all of Afghanistan with the help of some Afghanis.

Matters were difficult. Some said that the Soviet military machine could not be dislodged or expelled from Afghanistan.

At the time (the early eighties), I remember meeting with a group of American experts working at the U.S. State Department. Their final analysis was that Soviet involvement in Afghanistan was not analogous to U.S involvement in Vietnam, because Soviet society, given its closed nature, would not be affected by losses among its soldiers, regardless of the body count. The American experts also concluded that the Soviet Union's decision to enter Afghanistan was final, and that there was no imminent way to liberate Afghanistan from the Soviet talons.

When Ronald Reagan became president, he adopted an activist policy against Soviet influence in Afghanistan as part of the war against the "evil empire" as he called it. U.S. aid through Pakistan thus began to play a more active role in encouraging forces opposed to Soviet influence.

Ideologically, especially strong and unshakable doctrinal motivating factors were needed to defeat communism. Because the Afghani people and neighboring peoples professed Islam, Islamic groups and divisions were formed to expel the Soviet enemy.

Arab Muslims in many parts of the Islamic world encouraged this aid. They helped by collecting funds and encouraging the dispatch of men to Afghanistan to fight

the Soviets. A cause was just if its goals dovetailed with the liberation of Afghanistan.

However, the matter was not without complications, the two most important being:

1. The liberation of Afghanistan from Soviet control did not automatically create a model state embracing Islam. The allies of yesterday disagreed among themselves and began, and continue, to kill each other.

Initially, they were united in their opposition to a nonindigenous power. But they could not agree on an alternate national government. This political dispute can be expected to continue in a political, tribal, and sectarian framework, but certainly not in an Islamic framework.

It will continue—perhaps for a long time—until a state based on rational institutions comes into being in Afghanistan.

2. The "Afghani Arabs," with support from many financial bases, helped the Afghanis fight a nonindigenous power. However, their participation in the struggle did not make them a part of the Afghani nation. On the contrary, the new Afghani legitimate authority asked them to leave the arena of the Afghani national struggle, because they had finished playing their role. Some of the "Afghani Arabs" felt that their "Afghanization" had provided them with an opportunity for political and party advancement. They returned to their native countries and exerted an influence in them, using the only means that they are proficient in using, i.e., guns and bombs.

We do not wish to anticipate events by asserting that the commodity that we wished to export, whose negative aspects we disregarded, has been sent back to us. However, we are certain of the need to conduct a fundamental review of the financing of, and extraordinary mobilization for, causes and missions that we think are distant but are really not so far away in our daily shrinking world.

The question is: Who are these "Afghani Arabs?" Are they truly mercenaries who sell their war experience, and are they aware of this? Or, are they victims?

We must recognize that these persons were transported to the barren mountains of Afghanistan with the overwhelming approval of the Islamic world, which not only facilitated their passage through the various countries that made up their route, but also gave them arms and paid salaries to their families. The "Afghani Arabs" were heroes, who left behind comfortable lives and dedicated themselves to opposing the atheism of communism. The religious institutions in these countries rolled out for them red carpets [literally "green carpets"], leading to the paradise of martyrdom. Many of the "Afghani Arabs" no doubt went to Afghanistan with deep religious sentiments. However, matters became confused. The religious mask was pulled away from the political game being orchestrated skillfully by intelligence agencies in the major countries, and the thin thread separating a holy war from terrorism dissolved.

The question is: Did the "Afghani Arabs" truly realize the extent of the craftiness of the game? Or, did they accept and play by its rules? They have now become criminals. Many countries in the Islamic world are seeking to deport them and extradite them for trial. Some of these countries had been making propaganda for them, commending their heroism. What is the extent of their complicity in the spread of terrorism in the Islamic world? Have they exposed the deception of the old game? Or are they being driven toward the new game of terrorism with the same degree of heedlessness? More precisely, are they mercenaries or victims?!

It is ironic that we see this "group"—the troops of yesterday—moving together from one extreme to the other, as if to demonstrate that an ideology lacking in truth is only a deceitful mask. As soon as the mask falls away, we see mockery in faces that know neither the clarity of truth nor the depth of certainty. Many Soviet communists of yesterday have turned into a "commercial Mafia" in their countries, and into peddlers trafficking goods in suitcases between countries. Many of them, impassioned by the Slavic "utopia," have become mercenaries, joining the Serbs in firing against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Similar to them, the "Afghani" mujahidin of yesterday are becoming hired guns, available upon request to plant explosives, and troublemakers as they wait for employment.

Paradoxically, the people and ideology that powers use as tools quickly revolt against those powers. This is a lesson of history. History, which is forever shouting out its lessons, frequently finds that no one is listening. Thus, it repeats itself, albeit absurdly!!

Bangladesh

Ershad, Wife Sentenced on Corruption Charges

BK0706154093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Former President Ershad and his wife Raushan Ershad have been sentenced to seven years imprisonment each in connection with a corruption case known as the Janata Tower Case. Another 17 persons accused in the case including former minister M.A. Sattar and the former chairman of RAJUK [Capital Development Authority], Rahmatullah, have also been convicted for seven years each. This judgment was passed by Special Judge Ansaruddin Sikdar in Dhaka today.

Army Delegation Leaves for China 5 Jun

BK0506152093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] An Army delegation led by the chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, left

Dhaka for China today on a goodwill visit. During this visit, the members of the delegation will call on the senior commanders of the People's Liberation Army and hold talks on matters of mutual interest. They will also visit the military installations and the Military Training Institute of China.

India

Kashmir Militants Attack Army Motorcade

BK0806042693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Major General Inder Verma, division commander, who was injured in a shoot-out with militants on the outskirts of Baramula in North Kashmir yesterday, is reported to be out of danger. According to the Defense Ministry, the division commander was moving back to his headquarters after an inspection tour when his motorcade came under heavy fire from the militants at Budhan near Baramula. Colonel J. Singh and a jawan [soldier] were killed in the firing.

Normal Life Disrupted by Strike in West Bengal

BK0706162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] In West Bengal, normal life was disrupted today following a 24-hour bangla bundh [strike] called by the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] separately. The two parties were protesting against alleged CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] atrocities during the recent Panchayat [rural local body] elections in the state.

Most of the shops and establishments were closed and attendance in central and state government offices was thin. In Calcutta, state buses and trams are plying and a few private buses seen on the roads. Suburban and long distance trains from Howrah and Sealdah stations have been held up at different stations following blockade by the bundh supporters.

Briefing newsmen in Calcutta today, the state land revenue minister, Mr. Benoy Chaudhury, said that the bundh was partial. He said industries including tea gardens functioned but the attendance was below normal. Mr. Chaudhury said several clashes between the pro- and anti-bundh supporters took place. In one of these incidents, the procession led by former union Minister Ms. Mamta Banerjee came under attack by another procession brought out by the CPI-M against the bundh in south Calcutta. Twelve supporters of each party were injured in the incident and one of them has been hospitalized. Police had to burst tear gas shells to disperse the mob. According to Ms. Mamta Banerjee there was an attempt on her life by the CPI-M supporters. Mr. Chaudhury, however, denied Ms. Banerjee's charge and said that the injuries to her supporters were caused due to stone throwing.

The West Bengal state committee secretary of the CPI-M and the Left Front chairman, Mr. Sailen Das Gupta, has described today's bundh as, by and large, peaceful despite provocations from the Congress-I. He claimed that the bundh has been totally rejected by the industrial workers and the rural people, and the production remained unhampered. On the other hand, the West Bengal pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Soumen Mitra, has described the bundh as total and spontaneous all over the state.

Commerce Minister on Need To Increase Exports

BK0806094093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The government will provide all possible help to entrepreneurs to boost exports. This was stated by the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, in New Delhi today. Giving away the national exports awards for 1989-90 and 1990-91, Mr. Mukherji said economic measures initiated by the central government have provided opportunities to exporters to compete with their counterparts in the world. He said exporters should see that their products are competitive, both in price and quality. Mr. Mukherji said besides quality and price, constant upgradation of technology is a must to remain in the global market.

Referring to his recent visit to China, the minister said China has achieved trade surplus in just 10 years by increasing its exports. He said in India also, it is necessary to increase exports to avoid economic crisis. Appealing to the exporters to fix their own targets, he said export increase should be in U.S. dollars and not in rupee terms.

Company To Supply Bulldozers to Nepal

BK0806075793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The public sector Bharat Earth Movers Limited [BEML], Bangalore, has secured a $1-million order from Nepal for supply of 65 bulldozers and spare parts. According to a BEML release, the order was secured against stiff international competition. BEML has so far exported earth-moving equipment to more than 24 countries. It achieved an export turnover of 79 crore rupees during 1992-93.

Repatriation of Bangladesh Refugees Reportedly Begins

BK0806100493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The repatriation of Chakma [Chittagong Hill Tracts tribal] refugees to Bangladesh begins today. The first batch of 200 families of the Silacheri refugee camp in South Tripura are to leave for their homeland on the first day of repatriation. More than 50,000 Bangladeshi Chakmas have been living in camps in South Tripura since they fled their homes in the early 1980's following

armed conflicts between the government forces and tribal rebels who demanded regional autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. An agreement between India and Bangladesh on the repatriation of the Bangladeshi tribal refugees was reached last month. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Bangladeshi Premier Begum Khaleda Zia had in principle agreed on the repatriation of the refugees.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0837 GMT on 8 June, carries an item datelined Ramgarh, Bangladesh, which adds the following:

["The repatriation Tuesday of Chakma tribal refugees after more than a decade failed to take off as had been agreed by Bangladesh and India, Bangladeshi officials here said.

["They said neither Indian repatriation officials nor the tribesmen arrived as planned Tuesday, but Bangladesh was ready to welcome them.

["'We are still waiting for them or for any word,' one official in this village in southeastern Khagrachari hill district said.

["The refugees had fled their homes in Bangladesh's southeastern hill region more than a decade ago alleging military persecution. Dhaka denies the allegations.

["On Monday, officials here had said the process could have run into trouble after Indian officials failed to turn up for talks, without citing any reason.

["The last talks were held June 1, when it was decided that an initial batch of 600 refugees would return home over a three-day period starting Tuesday, and the remainder after name checks.

["India says some 60,000 Buddhist Chakma tribespeople are in its Tripura state but Dhaka puts the figure at 30,000.

["The refugee return was agreed with New Delhi after Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia initiated political talks with tribal rebels, the Shanti Bahini, and following the May visit to refugee camps in Tripura state by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed.

["The scenic hill tracts region, which also includes the districts of Rangamati and Bandarban, is the centre of an 18-year-old insurgency by the Shanti Bahini that has so far left more than 2,500 people dead.

["The rebels, who had attacked Bangladeshi troops in recent weeks despite a shaky ceasefire, are demanding autonomy and the expulsion of Moslem settlers from rugged region which borders India and Burma.

["Sources here said the Shanti Bahini, who had not given an unqualified agreement to the repatriation, could have forced the delay in the process."]

Iran

Khamene'i Address on Khomeyni Anniversary

LD0406113393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0753 GMT 4 Jun 93

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at ceremony in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery marking the fourth anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's death—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

What I will talk about in the first sermon is that during the imam's life there were two issues in the world in connection with the revolution and the person of the imam. Since the death of the great imam both issues remain, and will ostensibly remain as long as God Almighty deems it necessary. One issue is the malicious enmity and hostility of world arrogance toward our revolution, which it has shown and acted upon in a wide assortment of ways. That enmity still exists and will possibly continue as long as God Almighty deems it necessary.

The second issue is the spread of Islamist movements and the joining of the young generations in many Islamic countries to the imam's movement. That issue was widespread and fast growing in the imam's life time. Today, too, four years after the death of the imam, that tide still flows. That is, if you look at the whole world you will see that in Islamic countries every day a group joins the Islamic awareness movement, which our great imam invoked, and makes it bigger.

About the enmity of our arrogant enemies and the manner of their enmity toward the Islamic Republic and the revolution we have talked a great deal—and it is clear to our own people and perhaps many nations sympathetic to this revolution and this republic. Suffice it to say that at the head of this enmity and hostility toward Islam and Islamic awareness and the Islamic Republic is the American regime and those affiliated to that regime, be it in advanced countries or among backward countries in the world. The reason for that enmity is clear. It is because the Islamic revolution has laid the foundations of an independent republic based on Islam and that has cut America's influence in this country and possibly threatened that influence in many other countries in the world.

Of course, in the past, they did not clearly express that enmity, except on rare occasions. Today the Americans are clearly voicing, boasting about and stressing, their enmity toward our fledgling republic, the Islamic revolution and the Islamic awareness movement.

What is important to us—and is a point on which I wish to say a few words—is that you must make no mistake about the motives behind their enmity. To us, the reason

they give for their deep-seated enmity toward the revolutionary Islam and the system of the Islamic Republic is contrary to the truth. The truth is other than that which they are saying. They maintain that the Islamic system supports terrorism, or that it is opposed to democracy, or that it does not observe human rights, or that it gives financial or arms support to the Islamic movements in other countries. That is what they mention in their remarks. We say that what they claim to be the reasons for their enmity, their intransigence and their evil behavior toward the Islamic system is contrary to the truth. They themselves know that the reality is other than what they claim. How can anyone accuse the system of the Islamic Republic of being opposed to democracy and rule of the people, while there are no countries, among the countries of at least this region, in which the votes of the people, the presence of the people, the participation of the people, and free elections, are paid attention to as in the system of the Islamic Republic? Foreign observers have not seen such a phenomenon in any other country in the region. Our nation, likewise, never witnessed such a phenomenon in the period before the Islamic Republic.

Within the next few days, God willing, our nation will participate in the presidential elections. I will be mentioning a point of advice to you at the end of my speech, God willing. From the outset of the revolution, the situation has been like this, and this is not hidden from those who accuse the Islamic Republic of ignoring democracy.

The Islamic Republic is accused of terrorism. This is contrary to the reality; and they themselves are aware of this. The reality is that the one backing terrorism in the world today is the United States of America's regime-.[audience chants slogans condemning the anti-Islam opposition, America, and Israel] Support for the terrorist Zionist regime in the usurped country of Palestine constitutes the greatest support for terrorism. The methods used by the Americans themselves, their intervention in other countries, their kidnapping of those who oppose them, their killing of people, the intervention of the CIA espionage organization in various countries, the staging of military coup d'etats, and finally toppling weak governments to which America has been opposed, all of these constitute major acts of terrorism. Given this situation it is very clear that if America accuses the Islamic Republic of terrorism, it knows well that such a claim is contrary to reality.

Then the issue of violation of human rights. The very same governments, including the American regime, which accuse the Islamic Republic and any other Islamic system that seeks to flourish—or has indeed flourished—anywhere in the world, of violation of human rights, they themselves know that they are the ones who are to blame for major violations. In the Islamic system, the rights of humans are observed more than anywhere else. The Islamic Republic system, with blessings from God, has shown this. Today, also, before the eyes of all those who are able to see issues objectively and fairly, this is a clear and obvious matter.

Therefore, what the global enemies of Islam and the Islamic movement and Islamic awareness consider to be the reasons for their enmity is nonsense and pointless, and they know it too. It is interesting that many of those political figures in Western countries, in America and some European countries, level such unfounded accusations at the Islamic Republic and Muslims, but after a while, when their terms of office or leadership come to an end, it suddenly comes to light that they had Mafia connections, for example, or that they had a hand in such and such illegal arms deal, or that they had been involved in, or approved, or facilitated, the sale of chemicals to a regime such as Iraq and the massacre of the people of Halabjah.

Those same people who open their mouths and utter falsehoods about and accusations against Muslims and Islam and justice-seeking nations and the Islamic Republic, the passing of time—not a long time, but a little while—will prove that they themselves were guilty of what they had accused innocent people.

The truth about the reasons for the enmity of world arrogance toward us is another thing. We can clearly explain it. We know why America is the enemy of the Islamic Republic in Iran, why it is hostile to the Islamic awareness movement in any Islamic country, why if arrogant countries see that Islam is winning in a country, be it through a democratic process, they do anything they can to prevent that victory. We know why arrogance takes a stand wherever there is an echo of the call of our late, great imam and hearts are fascinated by that call and they move toward its goals.

The reasons are the following: In the first place, it is the issue of indivisibility of religion from politics and the scene of life. The Islamic Republic has proven and shown in practice that religion is present in the lives of human beings. The holy religion of Islam did not emerge so that the people would merely engage in prayers in the corners of temples, but it has placed the people's arena of life, the arena of politics, the scene of major social, political and economic issues at the forefront of the sacred Islamic principles. This is the first factor. This is the most significant factor opposed by the arrogance. If whomever supports the holy religion of Islam, separates religion from politics, then he would be left alone by global arrogance. It is when religion interferes in the scene of politics, the lives of the people, the basic affairs of the world and the worldly affairs of the people, that global arrogance manifests itself, since it knows that in such a situation, religion could put a stop to their bullyings, to their exploitations, to their plundering of natural and human resources of the Islamic world. This is the most vital of all issues. In the past they did not make this intention very clear. Today, they say openly that religion must be separated from politics. I say that politics, science, life, and social issues are placed in the

core of the Islamic, and perhaps all divine religions. It is impossible to believe in one part of the faith and not another. Religion manages the lives of mankind in all scenes, including the political scene.

They say let there be persons in charge of governments in Islamic countries with whom one can work—persons who can be persuaded to abandon the interests of nations and through whom we can extend our influence in other countries. It is clear that the person who finds himself in the seat of political power through religious motivation and for the sake of satisfying God, will not give in to the [arrogant] powers. This is the most fundamental issue.

The second issue is not to be affected by the demands of great powers. In the eyes of America and arrogant powers, one of the big crimes of the Islamic Republic is that it is not influenced by the views of America and the likes of America over international issues. One of the blatant exemples of this, you will note, today, is the question of Palestine. They have brought pressure to bear on Arab countries and also on many Islamic countries to ignore the question of Palestine. Unfortunately, many governments have caved in under this influence and accepted it. But the Islamic Republic has explained what it has to say clearly and audibly in one sentence which is accepted by all fair-minded people in the world and that is: Palestine belongs to the people of Palestine. [chants of support]

Another one of the reasons for the hostilities is especially this very same Palestine issue; where we have said that the usurper Zionist administration must pack up. Jews can stay in Palestine but the administration in Palestine belongs to the nation of Palestine and the Palestinians. They will keep anyone there that they wish, just like all other states. This administration is a usurper. We have declared this position; the imam declared this many times. This is the Islamic Republic of Iran's definite idea, which we have stated many times and will state again. This is one of the things that make arrogant enemies angry with us.

Another issue is our spiritual and political support for all those who are struggling in the path of Islam and Islam's sovereignty. We will support spiritually and politically anyone in any part of the world who rises up for Islam's honor. The enemy is trying to say that you give financial support; this is a lie. The enemy is trying to say that you are connected with Islamic movements in Islamic states; we strongly deny any organizational connection, official connection, connection in the way the enemy has in mind. Of course, today all those in the Islamic world who raise their voice in the name of Islam are influenced by our exalted imam; there is no doubt about that.

In a sermon at Id al-Fitr this year I said: The enemy asks us why you export your revolution. We reply to the enemy that we are not exporting our revolution; our revolution has long been exported, it is done. You are facing a fait accompli. The exporting of the revolution does not mean exporting a commodity for it to continue, and that by individuals. The export of an idea means that that idea is correct and attracts the hearts of humans worldwide. Those things took place and everyday the export of the revolution is manifesting its effects, even after the demise of our exalted Imam. However, we do give spiritual and political support. We accept those youths who, in Egypt, Algeria, or other Islamic states speak in the name of Islam; or Muslims who are in Tajikistan support Islamic and Qor'anic thought; or Muslims who in India wish to maintain their Islamic identity; or the tyrannized Muslims who in Iraq are under the Ba'thist regime's pressure; or any Muslim group in any part of the world which revives Islamic thought. We pray for them from our hearts and support them politically at the global level—as you can see that we are giving support. This is one of the issues.

Another issue that infuriates the enemy is the defense of Muslim nations. Dear brothers and sisters; it is more than a year that the Iranian nation and administration have been supporting the tyrannized people of Bosnia and have been uttering the truth about that issue and what should be carried out.

We declared—and we declare once more—that the West, and the United States in particular, and some European countries are as guilty regarding Bosnia as the extremist, fanatical, and racist Serbian groups. They are guilty to the same extent.

Many months ago we declared that the means for settling the Bosnian issue is to open the way and allow the Muslims in Bosnia the ability to acquire a defense capability and defend themselves. This is a statement that all fair-minded people in the world understand and accept. We did not want, like other governments, to fence in ourselves in the mold of attractive, empty, and frivolous rhetoric—like the futile resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. We have stated the way accurately and specifically: support for nations, support for the Bosnian nation, support for the Palestinian nation. That is our duty. It is exactly what infuriates our arrogant enemies.

We believe that one of the things that makes the enemy angry with the Islamic Republic of Iran is that we oppose the imposition of Western culture on Muslim nations and we act against it. Western culture is one which has some positive areas as well as negative points. We believe in the exchange of cultures. We say that a nation—such as the Iranian nation, or other Muslim nations—must look among world cultures, adopt what is beneficial to them, and use it. What is not necessary for them, they must abandon. However, Western governments, the ringleaders of arrogant systems, and especially the American system —and this does not just pertain to today [va in mal-e emruz ham nist]—insist on injecting, by all means, the culture of corruption and promiscuity, which is part of the characteristics of the Western culture, into Muslim nations and Islamic states, impose it on them. We oppose this. We ask: Why do you

seek to impose the way that you yourselves have adopted regarding women—which is a hundred percent to the detriment of women, a hundred percent to the detriment of the interests of the community and humanity, and against common sense and sound logic—why do you seek to impose this on other nations and use propaganda machinery and various means? We are opposed to this. That is one thing that infuriates the ringleaders of arrogance, and other such things. Those are the things, Muslim brothers and sisters, in our country and worldwide, that provoke the arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic system of Iran.

Therefore you see that when in Algeria the Islamic groups nearly took over the government through elections, some raised the call that democracy would die. They smashed democracy, because they were saying that democracy would die. This constituted an affront to the Islamic systems and movements.

What I want to say to you dear brothers and sisters as part of my conclusion is this: During almost 15 years since the victory of our revolution, this hostility and animosity of the superpowers against us has remained due to the reasons that I have already mentioned. I am not saying that the hostilities of America have had no effect on the conditions of our dear country and our esteemed nation. Yes they have. They have harmed the interests of our nation. By imposing the war, they put us back eight years. While we were meant to be traversing the path of development, they forced us to defend the country; and they destroyed many of our fundamental resources inside the country during the war. Therefore, there is no doubt that we have definitely been harmed by the enemy. But a very clear reality exists; that is the Iranian nation, with its resistance and steadfastness, has been able to nullify the ploys of the enemies. During the last 15 years, our resistant and steadfast nation has been able to disappoint the enemies who sought to force the nation to succumb, so that once again they could dominate the fate of this nation, and plunder its economic resources much in the same way as 50 or 100 years ago. I would like to tell you that once again you the nation are able to force an absolute debacle on America and its allies on the scene of confrontation against the Islamic Republic.

Iran will stand steadfast against plots. Of course, in a combat, both sides receive some blows and losses. But the question is that the side which surrenders and accepts defeat will be exposed to the hostilities of the opposite side. They want to dominate the country just like they did during the time of the monarchy. You can see today in the very files that the lackeys of the last regime are themselves exposing, how America was in control of the affairs of this country. They want to revive that influence again.

I say that the people of Iran will stand steadfast with all their strength in the face of this abject plot. [chants of God is Great; Khamene'i is the leader] We will not allow the principles that are the pillars of the Islamic revolution and are the cause of the hostility of the enemies to be placed in jeopardy.

I will add another paragraph to the end of this sermon. Dear brothers and sisters, great Iranian people: You have passed a very good test over a long period of time—the test of your unity, alertness, your cooperation with the officials and the test of your presence on different arenas. Today the question of the presidential elections is being raised. It is a public duty for all Iranians and you have two ways of understanding why this is a duty. One way is for you to know the extent to which your vote will have an impact on the morale, performance, capabilities, international reputation, and domestic authority of the person who will be voted in by you. See how much your presence is effective in determining the person that you choose to place at the highest executive office in the country and at the head of the legislative power of the country. This is the same popular presence which has been the great performance of the Islamic revolution and has been unprecedented throughout the length of the history of this country until the Islamic revolution.

This is one way. The second way is that the enemies, as you have seen, have each, for the past three months or more and up to now, held up their blowhorns, their mouthpieces, and started their propaganda in the hope that they may be able to do something so that there may be a low turn-out at the presidential elections. Each of them in every corner of the world ...[pauses]... one lot are getting their radio stations going with American money, another lot is doing this with Iraqi money and others with money from elsewhere. These same counterrevolutionary minigroups, these same lowly enemies whose ideology is given coverage by some radios such as the radios of various known countries in the world, in addition to the coverage of their own problems. All this lot have mobilized their efforts to try and influence the people of Iran and, given the chance, to reduce participation in the presidential elections as much as possible.

Well, why is the enemy spending so much, why is it bent on bringing about a low turn-out at the presidential elections? Should we not deduce from this that our presence in the elections and at the ballot boxes would be a heavy blow in the face of these enemies. Should we not deduce from this that the enemy is upset at the people's presence on the scene? This is itself a clear and determining path. I say—of course I am sure—that the dear nation will participate in this election as in the previous elections. But, I believe that this election is somehow special. Today, America, the Zionists, the capitalists, the minigroups, and the residues and dregs of the previous regime have all joined hands to say that four years after the demise of the eminent imam, the people have become despondent with the revolution and the path of the imam. That is what they wish to pretend. By attending the ballot boxes and the elections, the Iranian nation must decisively and in full strength prove that even though four years have lapsed since the demise of that eminence, the people continue to remain loyal to his

path, his guidance, and his will and testament in which he had called on the people to participate in elections. [crowd chants in support: God is great; Khamene'i is the leader; Death to America; death to counterrevolutionaries]

Jasbi Calls for Political Parties, Rule of Law

LD0706125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Speech by Dr. Abdollah Jasbi, chancellor of the Free Islamic University and candidate in the sixth presidential elections; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the area of foreign policy, I emphasize friendly relations with all the countries of the world, in particular with the Muslim and neighboring countries. I emphasize active participation in all international gatherings and assemblies. I emphasize that interaction must be active between economic and political relations.

In economic relations, we must take note of the countries that create political problems for us and react to this. In foreign policy, however, I believe the government is currently pursuing a well-developed policy. We—meaning the government and the people—must not allow real individuals or legal entities that have no responsibility to chant slogans and to do things that present the government with a fait accompli. Today, the world is so sensitive that the uncalculated utterance of a word could create problems for us.

In the area of domestic policy, I believe that the government should encourage and urge the formation of political parties and organizations. It is true that we do not have legal limitations, but there is a situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran where there is no great interest in the formation of political organizations and parties. I have a saying here; I am not certain but it is said to be from martyr Beheshti or His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i: Political gangs grow in the absence of official political parties and organizations. If we want to put a stop to the growth of political gangs, we must encourage and urge the formation of political parties and organizations. Whoever wants to be politically active can refer to these parties operating within the framework of laws and regulations.

Another point that I want to discuss in the field of domestic policy is respect for law. The rule of law is the most important thing for us. If we respect law, we will definitely have security and stability in all fields—be it in the areas of profession, finance, reputation, and life. Law must rule everywhere. Those people and organizations that allow themselves to make money from the people—under any pretext and outside the rule of law and regulations—damage the country's economy and reputation. We have to take seriously this issue of law and the implementation of law. The judiciary must stand against any organization or person in the country that wants to break the law—be it in taking extra money, or violating the sanctuary of people's professions or lives, or violating people's reputations. The judiciary must stand firmly against these people. If we manage to fully establish the rule of law and fully implement the law today, rest assured that we will then have the security of life, honor, and profession. Everything will be in the proper order then.

A bad law implemented is better that a good law unfulfilled. We have to take seriously the implementation of law and should not allow some people to break regulations and turn the country—through their arbitrary acts—into a scene of their aggression.

This was a summary of what I wanted to put to you, the dear Iranian nation. I hope that you, the dear nation, will actively and fully participate in the elections and will vote for your candidate. Rest assured that whoever has the greatest number of votes will definitely become the president of this country.

Oil Minister Urges Postponing Increased Production

LD0706124193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] [Announcer] In an interview with foreign reporters today Oil Minister Aqazadeh described the country's oil policy. Our economic correspondent reports:

[Reporter] In view of the new session of OPEC's oil ministers in Geneva, Iran's oil minister today announced: Taking into account that there is plenty of oil in the international market, there is not much demand, currently, for an increase in production and supply of oil to the market. Any kind of increase in OPEC's production ceiling will mean greater pressure to reduce the price of oil.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh, who was talking to a group of 30 foreign reporters in Tehran, said in connection with Kuwait's request to increase its oil production: Bearing in mind the needs of our country to reconstruct our war-damaged economy, the Islamic Republic of Iran understands Kuwait's request to secure its reconstruction expenditure. Iran believes, however, that it would be better to raise this request in the last quarter of this year and at a time when world demand for oil will witness a realistic increase. In any case, it is necessary that any kind of potential increase in the production of Kuwait's oil will be compensated for through reductions in the oil production of countries which, up to now, have been producing extra oil.

The Islamic Repubic of Iran's oil minister put the level of increase in world demand for oil in the last quarter of the year as approximately 1 million barrels. He said: The

Islamic Republic of Iran also will put forward its request for increasing Iran's oil production during the last quarter of the year.

Mr. Aqazadeh said that the current level of Iran's oil production was within the framework of the quota currently fixed by OPEC and was around 3.35 million to 3.4 million barrels. He added: About 2.55 million to 2.6 million barrels of this level of production is exported and the rest is consumed domestically. He said: Within the framework of the present year's budget the Oil Ministry is committed to obtain $17.9 billion in foreign exchange from its crude oil and petroleum products exports and to place this at the disposal of the Central Bank. This sum will be earned by taking into account the daily export of approximately 2.78 millions barrels of crude oil at an average price of $17 per barrel, and the export altogether of approximately $500 million worth of kerosene and petroleum products. He noted, however, that in the current year out of the total of Iran's revenues from oil exports, the sum of $1.5 billion will be allocated for investment in the oil sector.

Central Bank Governor on Foreign Debt Figures

LD0706172493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Mohammad 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, took part in a news conference today. [passage omitted]

The Central Bank governor said that Iran's present foreign debt is $6 billion and the amount of debt due is $2.5 billion. He said that with the implementation of new policies, it is expected that the difficulties in repaying the debt will be solved in the near future.

Foreign and domestic reporters attended the news conference. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Backs Bill on Nomads, Voluntary Settlement

LD0706203693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] At yesterday afternoon's cabinet meeting, the general principles of the draft bill of the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry on the organization, settlement, and migration of nomadic tribes, was approved. The session also approved that the country's nomadic tribes can chose to settle on a voluntary basis and emphasized that suitable conditions be established for this strata in society.

At that meeting, the energy minister presented a report on the search operations conducted in relation to the Ground Forces Airborne Division which crashed last autumn in the Zagros heights. He said that those who lost their lives in that crash were among the best experts and specialists of the Water and Electricity Board and said that their loss was a tragedy for the country's scientific community. The ministers expressed their condolences to the country's engineers and the Ground Forces Airborne Division and praised their services.

Tajik Minister Calls for Expansion of Ties

LD0706161893 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—The visiting Tajik Minister of Press Bobokhon Makhmadov met with Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani here on Monday and called for broadening of Tehran-Dushanbe cultural relations.

He underscored the need for expanding bilateral cooperation through holding cultural weeks, establishing joint printing houses and showing Iranian films in Tajikistan.

Larijani in return referred to common cultural background between Iran and Tajikistan and expressed Tehran's readiness to set up branches of Al-Hoda publications in that country.

Larijani also announced Iran's readiness to establish links between the two neighbouring countries' radios and televisions and to sponsor cultural weeks.

Heading a delegation, Makhmadov arrived here last Tuesday to take part in the 4th anniversary of the late Imam Khomeyni's departure.

Minister Confers With Habibi

LD0706180193 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Press Minister of Tajikistan Bobokhon Makhmadov today submitted first Vice-President Hasan Habibi a written message for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his Tajik counterpart.

Makhmadov said at the meeting, attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani, that Iran and his country shared a common religion, language and history.

He said Tajikistan considers the Islamic Republic as its "brother and friend" and was for expansion of Tehran-Dushanbe bilateral relations in various cultural, political and economic fields.

Habibi in return expressed concern over the ongoing clashes in the republic and said that the problem has kept Tajik policy-makers occupied at the expense of such important issues as advancement in the cultural, social and economic areas.

The two officials also discussed ways to facilitate broadening of bilateral cooperation.

Pakistan

Federal Ministers Demand Removal of President

BK0706120593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Several ministers expressed deep concern over steps taken by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to "destabilise" the Centre by getting provincial assemblies dissolved.

They aired this view at a special informal breakfast-meeting of the federal cabinet which was chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday [6 June]. They were of the view that the president has not accepted the Supreme Court verdict.

A participant of the meeting told THE NEWS that these ministers emphasized the need to reject any posibility of reconciliation with the President and demanded his impeachment in the light of the Supreme Court judgement, which dubbed his April 18 action as unconstitutional and illegal.

Responding to it, the Prime Minister is believed to have remarked that they should not be carried away by their emotions and the need of the hour was to focus attention on national reconstruction. "Our top priority should be to make the country economically powerful and self-sufficient."

The meeting continued for nearly two hours and no official was allowed to be present in it. ANP [Awami National Party] president Ajmal Khattak attended the meeting on special invitation.

The political situation with a specific reference to the President's actions "aimed at pushing the country into a political mess" was discussed in detail, a source told THE NEWS.

A majority of the ministers were reportedly of the view that it would be apporopriate for the President to voluntarily resign and go home. They said the prime minister and the government will continue to work in accordances with the Constitution.

The source said that the meeting was told that Lieutenant General (Retd) Hamid Gul who called on the President the other day to bring about approachement had not been given any mandate by the federal government to do so.

The prospective government opposition dialogue also came under discussion in the informal cabinet meeting. A large number of proposals came from different ministers.

"We should sincerely talk to the opposition for reconcillation," was the majority view. Most ministers noted that the President will try to scuttle the negotiations, the source said. Some of them pointed out that Ms Benazir Bhutto's attitude was positive.

The meeting expressed recentment over the disbanded caretakers decision to re-introduce the policy of making the nation a beggar, and lauded the Prime Minister's move to take back letters written by the President to different countries asking for financial assistance durign the interim [word indistinct].

The Prime Minister is said to have told his colleagues that his government would not make any compromise on the national honour. "The time is not far off when every citizen will have basic facilities of life."

He expressed the hope that national consensus will be achieved soon on key issues between the government and political forces inside and out of the Parliament.

The meeting also deliberated over budgetary matters. It was noted that on April 18, the foreign exchange reserves totalled 815 million US dollars while these came down to 370 million US dollars in just 40 days. But after the restoration of the National Assembly, these have risen to 425 million US dollars.

Parliament Briefed on Soldiers' Deaths in Somalia

BK0706154493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The National Assembly was informed this afternoon that the people and Government of Pakistan are deeply shocked and grieved at the tragic incident in Mogadishu in which 22 soldiers of the Pakistani contingent in the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Somalia were martyred and 54 others were wounded. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs made in a statement to this effect in the assembly this evening. He said our soldiers lost their lives and sustained injuries as a result of an unprovoked attack by the forces of the Somali warlord, Farah Aidid. The entire nation mourns the loss of its valiant sons and shares the grief of the families of the martyrs.

The minister said at the same time we take pride and solace in the fact that the martyrs laid down their lives for a most noble cause, that of restoring peace and saving the lives of thousands of people in a fraternal Muslim country. He said despite this tragic incident, Pakistan's commitment to the United Nations peacekeeping operations remains unshaken. Pakistan shall maintain its traditional and full support for an active role by the United Nations for the preservation and promotion of international peace and security.

The house also offered fateha [prayers] for the Pakistani soldiers who were martyred in Mogadishu.

Another Attack on Troops

BK0806030693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] A group of 20 seriously injured Pakistani soldiers is arriving in Rawalpindi from Somalia this evening. A UN official said in Rawalpindi yesterday that the

remaining 34 soldiers, who were slightly injured, will be treated in Mogadishu itself. He said the dead bodies of the Pakistani soldiers martyred in Somalia will be brought back to Pakistan after the necessary arrangements have been completed.

Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, has expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of Pakistani troops in Somalia. In a condolence message, she demanded an impartial investigation into the incident. She also expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

In another violent incident in Mogadishu, Somali armed men attacked the headquarters of the Pakistani military contingent included in the UN peacekeeping force yesterday. Pakistani troops returned the fire, killing two Somali armed persons.

Minister on Deterrence of Indian Missile Threat

BK0806092693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, assured the National Assembly today that the government is fully conscious of the development and installation of Prithvi [surface-to-surface] missiles by India and necessary steps have been taken to meet the challenge. He was speaking on a call-attention notice by MNA's [members of National Assembly]—Haji Javed Iqbal Cheema, Mr. Gul Hamid Khan Rokri, and Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo—regarding installation of such dangerous missiles by India on our borders, raising concern among the people.

The defense minister said Prithvi missile which has a range of 200 to 3000 km is presently in a testing stage. However, he said there is a possibility that India might have deployed a prototype version of the missile. He said the government is closely watching the situation and our defense forces can meet any challenge from any quarter.